

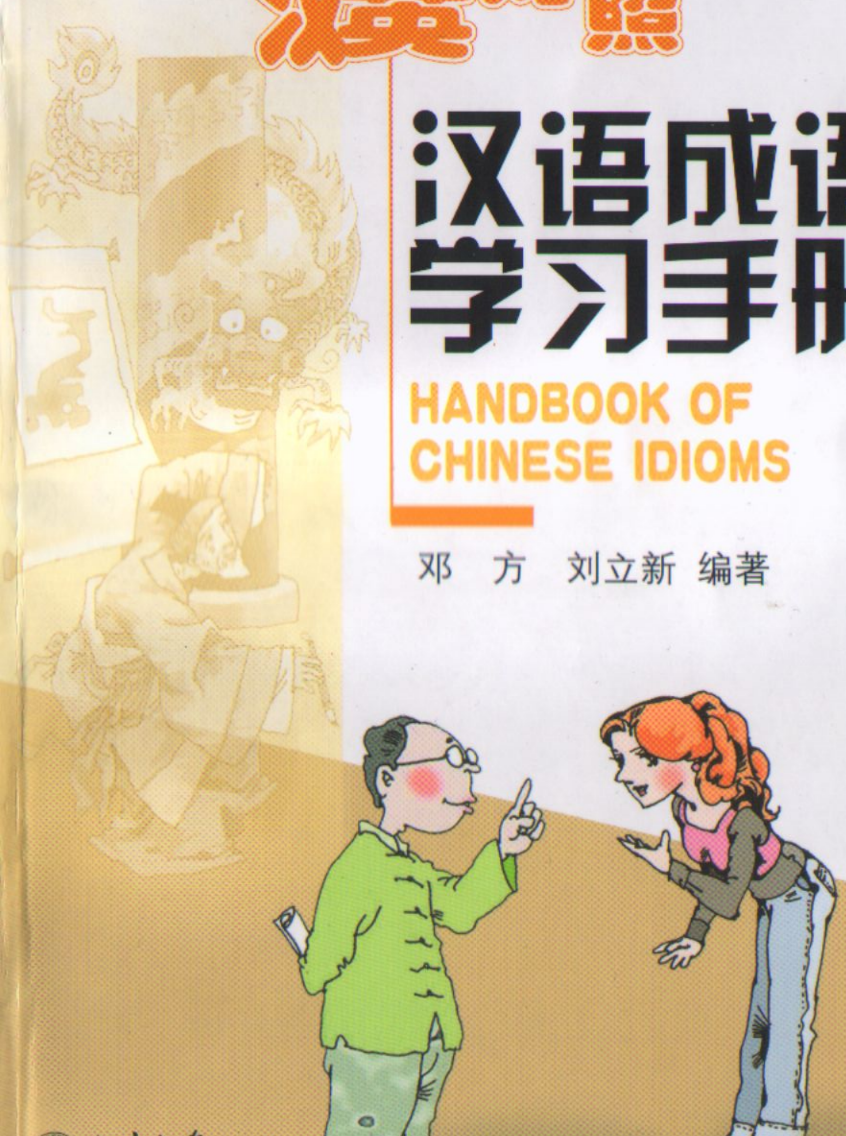
汉语学习手边册丛书

汉英对照

汉语成语学习手册

HANDBOOK OF CHINESE IDIOMS

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A

哀兵必胜 āi bīng bì shèng

an army burning with righteous indignation is bound to win

释 义 受压抑而奋起反抗的军队，作战勇敢，必定能取得胜利。后指正义的一方必然取得胜利。哀：悲愤、悲壮；兵：军队；必：必然；胜：胜利。

Paraphrase A baffled army tends to fight back courageously and, therefore, will most probably gain victory. In later use, those on the righteous side will finally succeed. "哀": grief-stricken, indignant, solemn and stirring; "兵": troops; "必": certainly; "胜": succeed.

例句 1 这次失败不一定是坏事，别忘了有句话叫做"～"。

Example 1 The current setback may turn out to be a blessing. Don't forget an old saying, "An army in unfavorable conditions is destined to be the winner."

例句 2 比赛中裁判不公，我方队员非常气愤，比平时更加勇猛，终于在最后时刻赢得了比赛，教练说："这就叫～。"

Example 2 Unfair refereeing of the match angered our team, but turned them into a team far more vigorous than usual. They won the game at the final moment. The coach said, "As the saying goes, an army in unfavorable conditions is destined to be the winner."

反 义 骄兵必败

爱不释手 ài bù shì shǒu

fondle admiringly

释 义 太喜爱了，不能放下。爱：喜爱；释：放开，放下。

Paraphrase Enjoy something too much to let it go. “爱”：enjoy；“释”：let go of something，put aside.

例句 1 过生日的时候，小李的男朋友送给她一款精美的彩屏手机，她简直～。

Example 1 On her birthday，Xiao Li's boyfriend sent her a fancy color-screen mobile phone，which was much to her liking. She simply couldn't take her hands off it.

例句 2 看他～的样子，卖主就知道他特别喜欢这个小玩意，立刻抬高了价钱。

Example 2 Seeing him fondling it in such an admiring way，the vender immediately realized that he greatly enjoyed the jigger and raised its price accordingly.

安居乐业 ān jū lè yè

live and work in peace and contentment

释 义 安定地居住在一个固定的地方，愉快地从事自己的职业。形容生活安定幸福。安：安宁，安定；居：住的地方。

Paraphrase Settle down in a fixed place and enjoy one's vocation. It implies ease and happiness of one's life. “安”：in peace，in a stable way；“居”：a dwelling place.

例句 1 桃花源里的人们～，自给(jǐ)自足。

Example 1 The people in the Peachblossom Spring live and work in peace and contentment，self-sufficient and reliant on nothing outside.

例句 2 战乱中的百姓，无不渴望～的日子。

Example 2 In the midst of war and chaos，civilians invariably

yearned for a peaceful and contented life.

反义 民不聊生

安贫乐道 ān pín lè dào

be content with poverty, caring only for one's principles or the way

释义 安心于自己的贫困生活，以坚持自我的信仰、主张、思想为乐。安：安心；乐：以……为乐；道：主张，思想。

Paraphrase Be content with one's life in poverty and prefer a life in strict consistence with one's own beliefs, propositions and views. "安": content; "乐": prefer; "道": claim, idea.

例句 1 古代很多诗人都～，精神世界十分充实。

Example 1 In ancient times, many poets, despite being poor, seeked a life in consistent with their own beliefs and were very satisfied spiritually.

例句 2 在现代社会，要做到～，并不是一件非常容易的事。

Example 2 In modern society, it is not a very easy task to adhere to our own beliefs at the cost of some immediate material gains.

按部就班 àn bù jiù bān

follow the prescribed order and do something step by step

释义 原指写文章时按类别安排结构内容、按顺序组织词句。后指遵循一定原则、程序做事。部：门类；班：次序。

Paraphrase Originally, in composing an article, set the structure and content in line with the type of the article, and organize sentences and words in a certain order. In later use, follow some principles or procedures in doing something. "部": type; "班": order.

例句 1 经理已经把任务布置好了，我们就～地开始吧。

Example 1 Manager has set us the assignment. Let's start it in the prescribed order.

例句 2 工程计划已经十分周密,我们只要～地做下去,就不会有问题。

Example 2 We've already got a well thought-out project plan, so there would be no problem as long as we follow it step by step.

黯然失色 àn rán shī sè

be cast into the shade

释义 指事物失去原有的光彩。也指心情沮丧,显出无精打采的样子。黯然:暗淡的样子。

Paraphrase It implies the loss of the original gloss and also a depressed frame of mind which leads to a downhearted look. "黯然": look pale.

例句 1 这些珠宝虽好,但和珍宝馆里的那些比起来,就～了。

Example 1 Though nice jewelry, it would be cast into the shade if placed together with the jewelry of the treasure shop.

例句 2 听了他这番话,大家的脸上立刻～。

Example 2 Everybody looked pale immediately after hearing his words.

B

白手起家 bái shǒu qǐ jiā

build up from nothing

释 义 形容原来没有条件或者条件很差而创立起一番家业或事业。

Paraphrase Establish a family business or a career from nothing or very little.

例句 1 许多世界著名企业创业的时候都是～。

Example 1 Many world-renowned companies created their enterprise from nothing.

例句 2 比尔·盖茨和他的合伙人～,创建了微软公司。

Example 2 Bill Gates and his copartners founded Microsoft from nothing.

八仙过海,各显神通 bā xiān guò hǎi,gè xiǎn shén tōng

like the Eight Immortals crossing the sea, each one showing his or her special prowess

释 义 比喻各有各的本领,各显各的身手。八仙:道教神话传说中的八位神仙,即:汉钟离、吕洞宾、张果老、曹国舅、蓝采和、何仙姑、铁拐李、韩湘子;神通:原是佛教用语,指无所不能的力量,后比喻高明的本领。

Paraphrase A metaphor, meaning that everybody has his or her own special abilities and will demonstrate them in his or her own special way. "八仙": the Eight Immortals in the legend of Taoism, namely, Han Zhong-li, Lü Dong-bing, Zhang Guo-lao, "Brother of

empress dowager" Cao, Lan Cai-he, He Xian-gu, "Iron Crutch" Li, Han Xiang-zi; "神通": originally, a Buddhist term, meaning omnipotent power, in later use, a metaphor, implying master skills.

例句 1 厨艺大赛开始了，参赛厨师～，让在场的人大饱眼福。

Example 1 With the commencement of the cuisine contest, each chef, like the Eight Immortals crossing the sea, showed his or her special prowess. All those present feasted their eyes on the show.

例句 2 这次才艺大赛～，每人都发挥出了自己的最高水平。

Example 2 In this performing contest, everybody, like the Eight Immortals crossing the sea, showed his or her special prowess to the utmost.

典 故 道教传说中有八位神仙，他们是：汉钟离、吕洞宾、张果老、曹国舅、蓝采和、何仙姑、铁拐李、韩湘子。这八位神仙各有各的法术。有一天，他们一同去参加王母娘娘的蟠桃会，途经东海时，只见海浪滔天，一望无际。吕洞宾提议每人把随身携带的一件宝物投进大海，让这些宝物载着自己过海。大家一致同意。铁拐李先把拐棍投进水里，自己稳稳地站在上边。接着，韩湘子投下花篮，吕洞宾投下箫，蓝采和投下玉版，何仙姑投下竹罩，他们分别站在自己投放的宝物上，依靠各自的神力，乘风破浪，顺利地渡过了东海。

跋山涉水 bá shān shè shuǐ

trudge over mountains and wade across streams—travel afar under difficult conditions

释 义 形容旅途上艰辛劳苦。跋山：翻越山岭；涉水：徒步过水。

Paraphrase It implies the hardships and toil of a journey. "跋山": trudge over mountains; "涉水": wade across a body of water.

例句 1 中国工农红军～，终于完成了二万五千里长征。

Example 1 Chinese Red Army of Workers and Peasants trudged over mountains, wade across streams and finally completed its 25,000-li long march.

例句 2 我们一路～,历尽艰辛,同时也体会到了探险的乐趣。

Example 2 We trudged over mountains and wade across streams all the way along. Though a really hard journey, it also gave us a chance in the meantime to experience the fun of an adventure.

近 义 翻山越岭

百闻不如一见 bǎi wén bù rú yī jiàn

it is better to see for oneself rather than to hear for many times

释 义 听到一百次,还不如亲眼看到一次。表示亲眼见到的比听说的更可靠更真实。

Paraphrase To hear of something for even 100 times is not enough to satisfy our curiosity, while to see for oneself just once is enough. It suggests that the things you see for yourself are more reliable and truthful than those you hear of.

例句 1 其实～,春节时你们自己去庙会看看,就知道有多热闹了。

Example 1 It is better to see for yourself rather than to hear for many times. It just takes you one personal visit to see how lively the temple fair is during the Spring Festival.

例句 2 今天我在现场观看了 NBA 比赛,实在太精彩了,真是～。

Example 2 Today I watched an NBA game live at the court which was truly wonderful. It is better to see for yourself rather than to hear for many times.

典 故 西汉宣帝时,羌(qiāng)人入侵,西北边境告急。宣帝召集群臣们商议退兵之策。曾经在边界和羌人打过几十年交道的 76 岁老将赵充国自告奋勇,要求前往。宣帝问他需要带多少兵马,赵充国

说:"百闻不如一见,我想亲自到边境去察看,然后再确定计划。"于是他带领一小队人马,仔细观察了地形,画好了作战图,制定了有效的计划。不久,宣帝派兵大举反攻,终于平定了羌人的侵扰。

百无聊赖 bǎi wú liáo lài

bored to death

释 义 精神上没有寄托,觉得非常无聊。聊赖:生活或精神上的依靠、寄托。

Paraphrase With no spiritual sustenance, feel utterly bored. "聊赖": something in one's life or heart that he or she relies upon or finds sustenance in.

例句 1 在你～时,干脆去跑跑步或者游游泳,就会使你重新充满活力。

Example 1 When you feel utterly bored, simply go jogging or swimming, and you will eventually find yourself totally refreshed.

例句 2 别人都回家过年了,只有这个流浪汉～地在街上游荡。

Example 2 Everybody was back home to spend the New Year except this tramp who was wandering in the street, utterly bored.

近 义 无所事事

班门弄斧 bān mén nòng fǔ

display one's slight skill before an expert

释 义 在鲁班的门前耍弄斧头。比喻在行家面前卖弄本领。班:指春秋时代鲁国的能工巧匠鲁班,木匠的祖师爷。

Paraphrase Display one's skill of ax at the gate of the Lu Ban's. A metaphor, show off one's skills before an expert. "班": an extremely talented craftsman in Lu State during the Spring and Autumn Period, acknowledged as the founder of China's carpentry.

例句 1 让我在那么多音乐家面前表演小提琴独奏，那不是～嘛！

Example 1 Wouldn't I be displaying my slight skill before experts if you have me play a violin solo before so many musicians?

例句 2 别在这儿～了！你面前的这几位先生，都是著名的汉学家。

Example 2 Don't be displaying your slight skill before experts. All these gentlemen before you are renowned Sinologist.

半斤八两 bàn jīn bā liǎng

be six of one and half a dozen of the other

释 义 指两者的重量相同。比喻彼此一样，多含贬义。八两：即半斤(旧时一斤为十六两)。

Paraphrase It implies that the two things mentioned weigh the same. A metaphor, meaning that there is no difference between one another, mostly in a derogatory sense. "八两": half a jin(in old times, one jin equals 16 liang).

例句 1 张三和李四都不是这方面的专家，两个人是～。

Example 1 Zhang San is no different from Li Si. Neither is an expert in this area.

例句 2 你别说他了，你们两个～。

Example 2 Stop talking about him like that. You two are just six of one and half a dozen of the other.

饱经风霜 bǎo jīng fēng shuāng

having had one's fill of hardships

释 义 形容经历过很多艰苦生活的磨炼。风霜：比喻生活中的困难与挫折。

Paraphrase Having endured many severe tests of a hard life. "风霜": a metaphor, implying hardships and frustrations in one's life.

例句 1 老王一辈子走南闯北,～,什么样的人没见过?

Example 1 Lao Wang has in his life traveled north and south, and had his fill of hardships. He has seen all sorts of people.

例句 2 看着他～的脸,听他讲述自己不平凡的经历,我的心里充满敬意。

Example 2 Looking at his weather-worn face and listening to him talking about his unusual experiences, I was filled with respect.

近 义 饱经沧桑

半途而废 bàn tú ér fèi

give up halfway

释 义 半路上停下来,不再前进。比喻做事有始无终,不能坚持到底。途:道路;废:停止。

Paraphrase Stop halfway and go no further. A metaphor, start something but not carry it through, fail to follow through. "途": road; "废": abandon.

例句 1 学习汉语应要长期坚持,不能～。

Example 1 It requires persistence to learn Chinese. Don't give up halfway.

例句 2 你的钢琴已经弹得这么好了,千万要坚持下去,可别～啊。

Example 2 You already play the piano so well, you've got to keep practicing. Don't quit halfway.

近 义 前功尽弃 有始无终

典 故 战国时,有一个叫乐羊子的人,把路上捡到的一块金子拿回了家。妻子对他说:"有道德的人从不喝盗泉的水,何况拣别人的东西使自己受益呢?"乐羊子听了,羞愧万分,就把金子放回原处。后来,乐羊子出去求学,可没到一年就回来了。正在织布的妻子看见他,

拿起一把剪刀走到织布机旁，说："这些丝绸是把蚕茧抽成丝，再用织布机一根一根织成的，现在如果把它剪断了，就会前功尽弃。学习也要日积月累。现在你只学了一半就回来，不是和剪断的丝线一样吗？"乐羊子听了，非常受启发，于是回去继续学习，终于学有所成，后来做了大事业。

杯水车薪 bēi shuǐ chē xīn

trying to put out a blazing cartload of faggots with a cup of water—an utterly inadequate measure in dealing with a severe situation

释 义 指用一杯水来灭一车着火的干柴草。比喻力量很小，解决不了根本问题。薪：干柴草。

Paraphrase Trying to put out a blazing cartload of faggots with a cup of water. A metaphor, too little power to solve the fundamental problem. "薪": faggots.

例句 1 要飞到伦敦，飞机至少还需要 3 吨汽油，这几百公斤汽油只是～。

Example 1 It takes at least another 3 tons of gasoline for the plane to take us to London. These several hundred kg. of gas is utterly inadequate.

例句 2 对于咱们公司现在的状况来说，这点资金不过是～，根本解决不了问题。

Example 2 Considering the current situation of our firm, this small fund is utterly inadequate to solve any problem, just like a cup of water in dealing with a blazing cartload of faggots.

悲欢离合 bēi huān lí hé

joys and sorrows, partings and reunions—vicissitudes of life

释 义 指生活中经历的各种境遇和由此产生的心情，也指别离

时的种种心情。悲欢：悲伤和欢乐；离合：离别和团圆。

Paraphrase It implies the many experiences in one's life and the accompanying feelings. Also, various emotions during one's departure. "悲欢": joys and sorrows; "离合": partings and reunions.

例句 1 这本小说讲述了第二次世界大战时一对恋人的～，非常感人。

Example 1 This novel tells the joys and sorrows, partings and reunions of two lovers, very moving indeed.

例句 2 电视剧中主人公～的故事，催人泪下。

Example 2 The leading character in this TV soap has experienced vicissitudes of life. His story moves viewers to tears.

本末倒置 běn mò dào zhì

put the cart before the horse

释 义 把树根与树梢的位置弄反了。比喻把事情的轻重主次颠倒了。本：树根；末：树梢；置：放置。

Paraphrase Take the branch for the root. A metaphor, put the incidental before the fundamental. "本": root; "末": branch; "置": place.

例句 1 写文章应该主次分明，不能～。

Example 1 Differentiate what is primary from what is secondary in writing an article. Don't put the cart before the horse.

例句 2 明天就要演出了，你只关注服装是否漂亮，可是连台词都没背好，这不是～吗？

Example 2 Your performance starts tomorrow and you're just preoccupied with whether the costume is pretty, but you haven't even fully prepared your lines. Aren't you putting the cart before the horse?

本性难移 běn xìng nán yí

a leopard can't change its spots

释 义 人的固有性格或习惯是很难改变的。

Paraphrase It is hard to change one's nature or habit.

例句 1 俗话说："江山易改，～。"

Example 1 As the saying goes, it's easy to change rivers and mountains but hard to change a person's nature.

例句 2 刚从监狱放出来，他又去抢银行，真是～。

Example 2 Just after being released from jail, he went and robbed the bank. A leopard can't really change its spots.

近 义 积习难改

比比皆是 bǐ bǐ jiē shì

such is the case everywhere

释 义 到处都是。形容非常多。比比：一个挨一个。

Paraphrase Can be found everywhere. There are plenty of something. "比比": everywhere; thickly dotted, one close to another.

例句 1 大街上，染发的青年人～。

Example 1 Young people with dyed hair can be seen everywhere in the street.

例句 2 在中国，夏天打阳伞的人～，可是在欧洲，这样的情况却很少见。

Example 2 In China, people putting up a sunshade on a hot summer day can be found everywhere, while in Europe, such is rarely the case.

敝帚自珍 bì zhǒu zì zhēn

cherish one's own shabby broom

释义 虽然是一把破旧的扫帚，自己却十分珍惜。比喻自己的东西虽然不算好，或者已经没有使用价值，却仍很珍爱。敝：破旧；珍：珍惜，爱惜。

Paraphrase A person's own old broom can still be cherished by himself. A metaphor, value something that is not good enough or of little usefulness simply because it is one's own. "敝": old and shabby; "珍": treasure; value.

例句 1 小王对自己写的那首诗十分喜爱，他说这叫"～"。

Example 1 Xiao Wang was very fond of the poem he wrote. As he said, although it is a shabby broom, the broom is his own broom.

例句 2 这辆自行车已经很破旧了，但哥哥还～，因为它包含着一段感人的故事。

Example 2 Though a much worn-out bicycle, my elder brother still cherishes it as a person cherishes his own shabby broom, for the bicycle has a moving story.

变幻莫测 biàn huàn mò cè

unpredictable

释义 指变化很快，难以预料。变幻：快速而多样的变化；莫测：不能预料。

Paraphrase Constantly changing, unpredictable. "变幻": swift and diverse changes; "莫测": can not predict.

例句 1 这里的气候～，你得多备些衣服。

Example 1 The weather condition here is totally unpredictable, so you'd better prepare more clothes for yourself.

例句 2 雪山上的天气～，没有当地人带领，你们不能随便登山。

Example 2 The weather on the snowy mountain can change

very unpredictably. Without the guidance of the native people, you shouldn't randomly attempt to climb it.

近义 千变万化

别具一格 bié jù yī gé

have a distinctive style

释义 另有一种与众不同的风格。格：风格。

Paraphrase Have a unique style. "格": style.

例句 1 她的这篇作文写得～，十分有新意，教写作的老师赞不绝口。

Example 1 This composition of hers is an original one with an unique style. Her teacher for composition was full of praise for her.

例句 2 去徽州旅行时，我被～的徽派建筑深深吸引了。

Example 2 During my travel in Huizhou, I was fascinated with the unique style of the Anhui architecture.

彬彬有礼 bīn bīn yǒu lǐ

refined and courteous; urbane

释义 文雅而礼貌。形容待人接物的态度。彬彬：文雅，温雅；礼：礼貌。

Paraphrase Refined and courteous. The manners in which one gets along with others. "彬彬": urbane, gentle and cultivated; "礼": manners.

例句 1 门童正在～地接待每一位客人。

Example 1 The boy gatekeeper is taking in every guest urbanely.

例句 2 小方一向～，怎么会动刀子？你们是不是弄错了？

Example 2 Xiaofang always behaves in such a refined and courteous way. Why would he fight with a knife? Are you mistaken?

近义 温文尔雅

不卑不亢 bù bēi bù kàng

neither humble nor self-conceited; neither servile nor overbearing

释 义 指对人的态度恰到好处，既不低三下四，也不傲慢。卑：低下，卑微；亢：高傲。

Paraphrase Has just the right manner towards people, neither humble nor haughty. “卑”: lowly, inferior; “亢”: superior.

例句 1 人不可有傲气，但不可无傲骨，～才是最好的处世态度。

Example 1 One should avoid haughtiness while still retaining an unyielding character. To be neither humble nor haughty could be just the right manner towards people.

例句 2 我们同外国朋友交往，既要讲究礼貌，又要～。

Example 2 In getting along with foreign friends, we should both consider our manners and be neither humble nor haughty in our way of being.

不寒而栗 bù hán ér lì

shiver all over though not cold—tremble with fear

释 义 天气不冷，身体却发抖。形容极其害怕、恐惧。栗：发抖。

Paraphrase Tremble, though it is not cold. It suggests utter fear or horror. “栗”: tremble.

例句 1 回想那个风雨交加的夜晚，小王依然～。

Example 1 On recollection of the night full of heavy wind and rain, Xiao Wang still trembles with fear.

例句 2 罪犯交代了他杀人的经过，在座的人都～。

Example 2 The criminal's account of his murdering act made all the people around tremble with fear.

不三不四 bù sān bù sì

dubious; shady

释 义 不像这也不像那。形容不伦不类,不像样子。有时也形容品行不端,不够正派。

Paraphrase Of neither this sort nor that sort. Neither fish nor fowl, not of any decent way of behaving oneself. Sometimes, it implies dishonorable or not decent enough conduct.

例句 1 他总和一些～的人来往,我很为他担心。

Example 1 He often mixes with some dubious characters, I worry about him.

例句 2 你别把房子租给～的人,免得惹麻烦。

Example 2 Don't rent your house to those shady characters in case any trouble may arise.

不相上下 bù xiāng shàng xià

almost on a par; equally matched

释 义 形容水平程度相当,难以分出高低。

Paraphrase Of approximately the same level, hard to tell which is better.

例句 1 这两台电脑的性能～,我买哪种好?

Example 1 The two computers are approximately of the same quality. Which do you recommend?

例句 2 我看他们俩的英语水平可能～。你想,一个在美国生活了九年,一个在加拿大生活了八年,两个人的英语能差多少?

Example 2 I suspect they are almost on a par as far as their English level is concerned. Considering the fact that one of them lived in the US for 9 years and the other in Canada for 8 years, how bad can their english be?

不翼而飞 bù yì ér fēi

vanish into thin air

释 义 没有翅膀却飞走了。比喻东西无缘无故地突然不见了。翼：翅膀。

Paraphrase Fly away with no help of the wings. A metaphor, (of an object)disappear without trace abruptly. “翼”: wing.

例句 1 我只去了一趟卫生间，放在桌上的手机就～了。

Example 1 All I did was go to the toilet once, and the mobile phone that I had left on the table had vanished into thin air.

例句 2 回到家时，她发现房门大开，屋里值钱的东西全都～。

Example 2 Back home, she found the door of her house wide open and all her valuables in the house disappeared without trace.

不约而同 bù yuē ér tóng

happen to coincide

释 义 没有事先商量约定，彼此的看法或言行却相同。

Paraphrase Do or think the same without prior consultation.

例句 1 一说到“9・11”，大家～地想到了那个恐怖的早晨。

Example 1 At the mention of 9・11, everybody spontaneously thought of that morning of horror.

例句 2 口语老师问大家：“请说说你们知道的中国导演的名字。”大家～地说：“张艺谋!”

Example 2 The Chinese oral teacher asked the class: “Please list the names of any Chinese directors you know of.” “Zhang Yimou!” The entire class responded simultaneously as if by prior agreement.

C

藏龙卧虎 cáng lóng wò hǔ

(of a place) where dragons and tigers are hiding

释 义 比喻隐藏着杰出的人才或英雄。

Paraphrase A metaphor, people of unusual ability are to be found.

例句 1 绍兴是一个～的地方,很多名人都出自那里。

Example 1 Shaoxing is a place where dragons and tigers are hiding. Many famous people come from there.

例句 2 这批留学生里～,有体操冠军,有飞行员,还有亚洲小姐呢。

Example 2 Among this group of students studying abroad, there are a gymnastics champion, a pilot, and even a Miss Asia.

畅所欲言 chàng suǒ yù yán

speak without any inhibitions

释 义 把要说的话痛痛快快地说出来。畅:没有阻碍,通畅,痛快;欲:想要,希望;言:说。

Paraphrase Pour out all that one wishes to say. "畅": freely, to one's heart's content; "欲": wish, hope; "言": say.

例句 1 今天请各位来,就是要听听大家对我们教学管理工作的意见,请各位～。

Example 1 Today we ask you here for your opinion on our teaching supervision work. Please speak your mind freely.

例句 2 今天会议的主题是讨论明年的出版计划,请大家～。

Example 2 The subject matter under discussion in today's meeting is about the publishing plan for the coming year. Please speak without any inhibitions.

车水马龙 chē shuǐ mǎ lóng

an incessant stream of horses and carriages

释 义 车像流水,马如游龙。形容车马来来往往的热闹景象。

Paraphrase Heavy traffic, with horses, carriages or motor vehicles moving like a running stream and horses like swimming dragons. Carriages and horses moving to and fro—an image of lively streets.

例句 1 没想到当年那个偏僻的小山村,如今已经变成了～的热闹小镇。

Example 1 It's a wonder that the faraway little village in the mountains has now turned into a lively small town with rather busy traffic on the streets.

例句 2 长安街上～,川流不息。

Example 2 There is always heavy traffic on Chang'an Avenue, vehicles of all kinds moving to and fro like a running stream.

沉默寡言 chén mò guǎ yán

reticent

释 义 不声不响,很少说话。寡:少。

Paraphrase Silent, seldom talk. "寡": seldom.

例句 1 ～的哥哥和活泼开朗的弟弟形成了鲜明的对比。

Example 1 The taciturn elder brother is a sharp contrast to his lively younger brother.

例句 2 王亮平时～,但一说到他喜爱的足球,就滔滔不绝,像换了一个人。

Example 2 Though normally a taciturn man, Wang Liang will turn into a completely different person when talking about football, his favorite sport. He will then talk and talk.

称心如意 chèn xīn rú yì

after sb.'s own heart

释 义 完全合乎心意。称：适合。

Paraphrase Completely as one wishes. "称": suit.

例句 1 小雪找到了～的男朋友。

Example 1 Xiaoxue has found just the one she wanted as her boyfriend.

例句 2 跑了很多家商店，我终于买到了～的大衣。

Example 2 After much searching around various shops, I finally got an overcoat that suits all my wishes.

成家立业 chéng jiā lì yè

marry and well-established in a career

释 义 组成家庭，从事某种事业并有所成就。立：建立；业：事业。

Paraphrase Form a family and make some achievement in one's career. "立": build up; "业": a career.

例句 1 你也是快三十岁的人了，也该～了。

Example 1 You are approaching 30. It's about time you get yourself a family and find your place in the world.

例句 2 孩子们都～以后，母亲才彻底放了心。

Example 2 Mother would not be completely rest assured until all her children have gotten married and be well-established in their careers.

成人之美 chéng rén zhī měi

help sb. to fulfil his wish

释义 指成全别人的好事。成：成全，帮助；美：好事。

Paraphrase Help sb. to fulfil his wish. “成”：help sb. achieve his aim；“美”：good.

例句 1 你别老跟他过不去，～也是一种美德。

Example 1 Don't always be so hard on him. Sometimes make a virtue of helping him achieve his aim.

例句 2 凡事应该大度些，君子～嘛。

Example 2 Be more generous with everything. A man of virtue aids others in doing a good deed.

诚心诚意 chéng xīn chéng yì

earnestly and sincerely

释义 十分真挚，诚恳。

Paraphrase Very earnest, pure-hearted.

例句 1 今天我是～来求你原谅的。

Example 1 Today I'm here to ask for your forgiveness in earnest.

例句 2 既然她已经～地向你道了歉，你就别再跟她过不去了。

Example 2 Since she has apologized to you earnestly and sincerely, you needn't be so hard on her any more.

承上启下 chéng shàng qǐ xià

form a connecting link between what comes before and what goes after(as in a piece of writing, etc.)

释义 承接上面，引出下面。

Paraphrase Carry on from the proceeding paragraph and derive

the following one.

例句 1 关联词有～的作用，如果用得好，对提高文章的质量很有帮助。

Example 1 A conjunction serves to form a connecting link between what comes before and what goes after. If used properly, it would be of great help to an article.

例句 2 这段文字在文章中有～的作用。

Example 2 In the article this part serves to form a connecting link between what comes before and what goes after.

吃一堑，长一智 chī yī qiàn, zhǎng yī zhì

a fall into the pit, a gain in your wit

释 义 受一次挫折，增长一分才智。堑：壕沟，比喻挫折或失败；长：增长；智：才智，见识。

Paraphrase A setback experienced, a gain in our ability and wit. "堑": moat, a metaphor, setback or failure; "长": increase; "智": ability and wit, knowledge.

例句 1 ～，这次挫折算不了什么。

Example 1 A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit. The current setback is nothing much.

例句 2 这次比赛输了没关系，～，只要吸取教训，我们一定能赢他们。

Example 2 It doesn't matter that we lost this game. A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit. Learn from this lesson, and we will certainly beat them.

持之以恒 chí zhī yǐ héng

persevere

释 义 有恒心，长期坚持不懈地做下去。持：坚持；恒：长久。

Paraphrase Be persevering, make an unremitting effort to do something. “持”: persist in; “恒”: lasting.

例句 1 做任何事都应该～,不能半途而废。

Example 1 We should persevere in any undertaking and never give up halfway.

例句 2 要想练得一笔好字,必须有～的精神。

Example 2 Spirit of perseverance is essential to practise good handwriting.

尺有所短,寸有所长 chǐ yǒu suǒ duǎn,cùn yǒu suǒ cháng

sometimes a foot may prove short while an inch may prove long

释 义 虽然尺比寸长,可是用在比尺更长的地方则显得短;虽然寸比尺短,可是用在比寸更短的地方则显得长。比喻人或事物各有其长处和短处。有时简说为“尺短寸长”。

Paraphrase A foot is longer than an inch. However, if used to measure something longer than a foot, a foot is short; while an inch may appear long in comparison with something shorter than an inch. A metaphor, suggesting that each person or thing has its own advantages and weaknesses. Sometimes put briefly as “尺短寸长”.

例句 1 你不要自卑,～,你也可以和别人一样有所成就。

Example 1 Don't feel inferior. Sometimes a foot may prove short while an inch may prove long. So you can have the same prospect as anyone else.

例句 2 ～,我们要努力学习别人的长处,弥补自己的不足。

Example 2 Sometimes a foot may prove short while an inch may prove long. We must try to learn from others' virtues so as to make up for our own deficiencies.

赤手空拳 chì shǒu kōng quán

bare-handed; unarmed

释 义 指两手空空。比喻无所凭借。赤手：空手。

Paraphrase With one's hands holding nothing. A metaphor, depend on nothing or nobody. "赤手": with one's bare hands.

例句 1 少林和尚～的武术表演，让在场的人大饱眼福。

Example 1 Monks of the Shaolin Monastery performed martial art bare-handed. People around feasted their eyes on such a spectacle.

例句 2 李明～地面对歹徒，没有一丝畏惧，不出几分钟，他就用自己的跆拳道功夫制服了歹徒。

Example 2 Bare-handed, Li Ming confronted those gangsters with no fear at all and subdued them with his taekwondo within minutes.

愁眉苦脸 chóu méi kǔ liǎn

wear a worried look; pull a long face

释 义 紧皱眉头，一脸苦相。形容愁苦的神情。愁眉：指发愁时皱着眉头；苦脸：指痛苦的面容。

Paraphrase Frown, with a bitter look. A look of anxiety. "愁眉": frown while upset; "苦脸": a look of distress.

例句 1 我正在看书，同屋～地走进来说："我这次考砸了。"

Example 1 When I was reading, my roommate came in with a worried look and said: "I messed up my exam this time."

例句 2 你怎么最近总是～的，到底发生了什么事？

Example 2 How come you are always pulling a long face these days? What on earth has happened?

出尔反尔 chū ěr fǎn ěr

go back on one's words; contradict oneself

释 义 你怎样对待别人，别人也会怎样对待你。后来指言行前后矛盾，反复无常。尔：你。

Paraphrase Others treat you just the way you treat them. In later use, one's words always conflict with his acts; unreliable. "尔": you.

例句 1 你总是～，以后别人怎么能再相信你？

Example 1 You always go back on your words. How could other people trust you any more?

例句 2 政客说的话可不能完全相信，他们往往～。

Example 2 You can't simply believe what those politicians said, for they normally turn out unreliable.

出口成章 chū kǒu chéng zhāng

words flow from the mouth as if from the pen of a master

释 义 话说出来就能成为文章。比喻口才好或才思敏捷。章：文章。

Paraphrase Talk in a way that make the listeners feel as if they are enjoying a good piece of writing. A metaphor, implying one's eloquence and quick wit. "章": article.

例句 1 纪晓岚是清朝著名才子，他能过目不忘，～。

Example 1 Ji Xiaolan, a well-known bel esprit in Qing Dynasty, had the ability to commit anything to memory after reading it once and to talk with words flowing from the mouth as if from the pen of a master.

例句 2 刘虹有很强的文学功底，很多古代诗歌散文都能倒背如流，因而可以～。

Example 2 Liu Hong has such a solid grounding in Chinese culture that she can even recite many classical poems and essays backwards. Therefore, she can always make words flow from the mouth as if from the pen of a master.

出人意料 chū rén yì liào

exceed all expectations

释 义 出于人们的意料之外。

Paraphrase Beyond all expectations.

例句 1 毕业时,他做出了一个~的决定,要作为志愿者去西北偏远农村教书。

Example 1 On graduation, beyond all expectations, he made a decision to teach as a volunteer in those far away villages in Northeast China.

例句 2 英俊潇洒的小陈向聪明灵秀的小芳求婚,但~的是小芳拒绝了他。

Example 2 Xiao Chen, a handsome smart young man, proposed to Xiaofang, the bright elegant young lady. However against all expectations, Xiaofang declined his proposal.

初出茅庐 chū chū máo lú

just come out of one's thatched cottage—at the beginning of one's career

释 义 指三国时诸葛亮初次离开隐居的茅庐,协助刘备打仗。后比喻初次出来做事,缺乏经验,尚未成熟。茅庐:草房。

Paraphrase Allude to the well-known Three Kingdoms Period story of Zhuge Liang who just left the thatched cottage, where he had lived as a hermit, to assist Liu Bei in his war efforts. Now, a metaphor, in one's first attempt to do something, lack of experience, immature. "茅庐": thatched cottage.

例句 1 小王~,完全不知道社会的复杂。

Example 1 Xiao Wang has just come out of his thatched cottage, totally unaware of an extremely complicated society.

例句 2 虽然小韩是一个~的记者,可是他写出了不同凡响的报

道，真让人佩服！

Example 2 For a journalist who has just come out of his thatched cottage, Xiao Han is really impressive with this outstanding news story.

触景生情 chù jǐng shēng qíng

the sight strikes a chord in one's heart

释 义 受眼前景物的触动，产生某种感情。触：接触，触动。

Paraphrase Stirred up by a sight, some feelings arise. "触": touch, stir.

例句 1 每次看到落日，我都会～，因为曾和我一起看夕阳的好朋友如今却在另一个世界里。

Example 1 The sight of sunset always strikes a chord in my heart, for my good friend, who once shared the same view with me, is now in the other world.

例句 2 路过果园时，我不禁～，童年的往事历历在目。

Example 2 Passing by the orchard, the sight of it struck a chord in my heart and scenes of my childhood leapt up before my eyes.

川流不息 chuān liú bù xī

flowing past in an endless stream

释 义 像河水那样流个不停。比喻连续不断。川：河流；息：停止。

Paraphrase Flowing past in an endless stream like a river. A metaphor, never-ending. "川": current; "息": end.

例句 1 ～的大街上，有多少平凡的故事正在上演。

Example 1 This endlessly flowing avenue is where many people's stories are put on show.

例句 2 高速公路上各种车辆～，可是有几个人想跳过隔离墩穿行，实在是拿生命当儿戏。

Example 2 On the highway, vehicles of all sorts passing by in an endless stream, still a few people made attempts to cross it over the hard shoulder. They were really making a trifle of their very lives.

垂头丧气 chuí tóu sàng qì

with the tail between the legs; be crestfallen; be dispirited and depressed; be dejected

释 义 低着头，意气颓丧。形容失意、精神萎靡的样子。垂头：耷拉着脑袋；丧气：意气沮丧。

Paraphrase Lower one's head, in a dispirited way, look frustrated and dejected. "垂头": droop one's head; "丧气": be dismayed.

例句 1 看大家～的样子，我就知道事情的结果了。

Example 1 The dispirited look of everybody just told me what must be the final outcome.

例句 2 在火车站等了半天也没有等到要接的客户，他只好～地回来了。

Example 2 Having waited a long time for a client but still did not manage to meet, he dejected and disappointed, had to come back.

春暖花开 chūn nuǎn huā kāi

spring has come and the flowers are in bloom

释 义 气候和暖宜人，百花盛开，春光优美。又作"春暖花香"。暖：温暖；开：盛开。

Paraphrase The weather is mild and agreeable, flowers are in bloom—charming spring scenery. Also "春暖花香". "暖": mild;

"开": in full blossom.

例句 1 我最喜欢～的时节。

Example 1 With flowers in full blossom and the weather mild and agreeable, Spring is always my favorite season.

例句 2 每年～的时候,我们全家都要到郊外踏青。

Example 2 In the springtime every year when flowers are in full blossom and the weather is mild and agreeable, the whole family went to the suburbs for a walk in the country.

唇枪舌剑 chún qiāng shé jiàn

cross verbal swords

释 义 唇如枪,舌如剑。比喻争辩激烈,言辞犀利。

Paraphrase Lips are spears, tongues are swords. A metaphor, engage in a battle of words, remark incisively.

例句 1 辩论会上,双方～,针锋相对。

Example 1 During the debate, the two sides crossed verbal swords, tit for tat and uncompromising.

例句 2 我们何必～地争吵,还是坐下来心平气和地谈谈吧。

Example 2 There's no need for us to engage in a battle of words. Let's sit down and talk in peace.

绰绰有余 chuò chuò yǒu yú

enough and to spare

释 义 指人力、物力、时间、空间或能力等很宽裕、很充分,用不完。绰绰:宽裕的样子;余:富饶,富足。

Paraphrase Ample, plentiful and more than enough in terms of manpower, material resources, time, space or capability. "绰绰": the state of being ample; "余": abundant, plentiful.

例句 1 这么多砖,盖一座二层小楼～。

Example 1 These bricks should be more than enough for a building of two storeys.

例句 2 我准备了足够的现金，交住宿费～。

Example 2 I have prepared more than enough money to pay for lodging.

此地无银三百两 cǐ dì wú yín sān bǎi liǎng

no 300 tael of silver buried here—a flimsy denial resulting in self-exposure

释 义 在有银子的地方标明“这里没有银子”，比喻本来想隐瞒、掩饰事实，反而暴露真相。

Paraphrase Put up a sign where silver is hidden, stating that “no silver is here.” A metaphor, intend to conceal and cover up the truth, only to make it even more obvious.

例句 1 王老师一进家门，孩子就告诉他：“冰箱里的冰激凌不是我吃的。”王老师笑了，说：“～。”

Example 1 As Mr. Wang went into his house, his child told him, “I didn't take that icecream in the fridge.” Mr. Wang laughed and said, “No 300 tael of silver buried here.”

例句 2 他真够笨的，本来大家都没发现是他干的，可他老提这事，真是～。

Example 2 What a silly person he is! Actually no one ever found out that he had done it, but he kept bringing it up as if no 300 tael of silver had been buried here.

典 故 从前，有个人得到了三百两银子。他想把银子藏在安全的地方，于是在自家的院子里挖了一个坑，把银子埋下去，然后在墙上写了七个大字：“此地无银三百两。”意思是这个地方没有三百两银子。邻居阿二看到了墙上的字，心中暗暗高兴，把银子偷了出来，也在墙上写了七个字：“隔壁阿二不曾偷。”意思是住在隔壁的阿二没有偷银子。

匆匆忙忙 cōng cōng máng máng

in a hurry

释 义 形容非常着急的样子。

Paraphrase In a hasty manner.

例句 1 看你～的，又是去上课吧？

Example 1 Why in such a hurry? Going to the class again?

例句 2 刘老师到办公室来了一趟，又～地走了。

Example 2 Mr. Liu came to the office once and left hurriedly.

从容不迫 cóng róng bù pò

calm and unhurried

释 义 形容遇事沉着镇静，不慌不忙。从容：舒缓，悠然；迫：慌张。

Paraphrase Maintain one's composure and be unruffled whatever happens. "从容": relaxed, leisurely.

例句 1 我真佩服他，无论遇到什么事都～的，让人觉得很踏实。

Example 1 I really admire him for his reassuring composure under any circumstances.

例句 2 心理素质好的人做事情总是～。

Example 2 People who are mentally composed can always keep calm and be unhurried when handling affairs.

近 义 泰然自若

反 义 惊惶失措

从善如流 cóng shàn rú liú

follow what is right as a stream follows its course

释 义 采纳高明正确的意见和建议，像水向下流那样顺利而自然。形容乐于接受意见和建议。善：好，指高明正确的意见和建议；

流：流水。

Paraphrase Readily accept wise and proper opinions and advice as water naturally flows to a low place. Take delight in accepting helpful views and suggestions. “善”：nice，implying wise and proper opinions and advice；“流”：flowing water.

例句 1 王经理为人正直，～，在他的公司做事一定能发挥每个人的积极性。

Example 1 Director Wang is a man of good character who follows what is right as a stream follows its course. Everyone in his company will find great enthusiasm in their jobs.

例句 2 他这个人一向～，何况这次活动是为了帮助他自己国家的穷人，他肯定会积极参加。

Example 2 He always follows what is right as a stream follows its course. Besides，this is an occasion to help the poor in his own country. He will certainly take an active part.

粗心大意 cū xīn dà yì

careless；inadvertent

释 义 不细心，不注意。形容做事马马虎虎或考虑问题不细致。

Paraphrase Not careful，not attentive. Slack in doing things or casual in thinking.

例句 1 你都这么大的人了，做事怎么老～的？

Example 1 How come you are still so inadvertent at your age?

例句 2 就因为～，考试时我丢了不该丢的五分。

Example 2 Because of my carelessness，I lost 5 points in my exam，which I shouldn't have lost.

D

打草惊蛇 dǎ cǎo jīng shé

beat the grass and startle the snake

释 义 打草时惊动伏在草里的蛇。原指对同类的事情,打击了一个,警告了另一个。现比喻行为不谨慎,采取了不必要的举动,惊动了对方。

Paraphrase Beat the grass and startle the snake in hiding. Originally, the punishment of a certain person serves to warn another involved in the same matter. Now, a metaphor, suggesting lack of discretion for taking unnecessary actions and, consequently, alerting the opponent.

例句 1 这次抓捕行动必须严格保密,千万不能~。

Example 1 The arrests today should be kept extremely confidential. Don't by all means beat the grass and startle the snake.

例句 2 明天咱们谁也别提这件事,免得~。

Example 2 Let's not mention this matter tomorrow in case we might beat the grass and startle the snake.

典 故 唐朝有个名叫王鲁的县令,爱财如命,常常贪污受贿。他手下有个人也常常接受别人的贿赂,终于有一天被告到王鲁那里,还被列出了很多罪状。王鲁一边看状子一边发抖,因为里边列的罪行和自己的几乎一样。由于害怕,王鲁不但忘记提出处理意见,还不由自主地在状子上写了一句:"你虽然打的是草,我已经像趴在草里的蛇一样,受到了惊吓。"

大步流星 dà bù liú xīng

with vigorous strides

释 义 脚步迈得很大，走得很快。

Paraphrase To walk quickly with long steps.

例句 1 听到宣布自己获得本届最佳电影摄影奖时，王飞～地走上颁奖台。

Example 1 On hearing the announcement of him as winner of this year's award for best cinematography, Wang Fei went onto the stage with vigorous strides.

例句 2 他走路常常～的，说话声音也十分洪亮，一看就知道是个豪爽的人。

Example 2 He often walks with vigorous strides and speaks with a sonorous voice, immediately giving people the impression of a generous person.

大海捞针 dà hǎi lāo zhēn

look for a needle in a haystack

释 义 在海里捞针。比喻很难寻求得到，含有白费力气的意思。

Paraphrase Fish for a needle in the ocean. A metaphor, (of something) hard to obtain. It suggests a search in vain.

例句 1 要想在这个城市里找到没有留下姓名的救命恩人，真是～。

Example 1 Wanting to find that wan in this city who saved my life but never gave me his name is like fishing for a needle in the ocean.

例句 2 他们已经三十年没见面了，如今要在茫茫人海中找到当年的小伙伴，如同～。

Example 2 They haven't seen each other for as long as 30 years. To look for the lad of those days among the multitudes today is just like looking for a needle in a haystack.

大获全胜 dà huò quán shèng

a sweeping victory

释 义 指战胜对方，取得全面胜利。

Paraphrase Defeat the adversary and win a sweeping victory.

例句 1 在乒乓球比赛中，我校～，囊括了男女单打和双打冠军。

Example 1 Our school won a sweeping victory in the pingpang match, pocketing championships of men's and women's singles and doubles.

例句 2 后天比赛，祝你们～！

Example 2 We wish you a sweeping victory in the match the day after tomorrow!

反 义 一败涂地

大惊失色 dà jīng shī sè

turn pale with fright

释 义 极度惊慌，使脸上改变了正常颜色。形容极度害怕。失色：脸色改变。

Paraphrase Get into a panic with one's face changing color. Utterly scared. "失色": change one's countenance.

例句 1 听说警察来了，赌徒们个个～。

Example 1 Hearing that cops were coming, the gamblers all turned pale with fright.

例句 2 听说有个穿红衣服的孩子在上学路上被车撞了，母亲～。

Example 2 Hearing that a boy dressed in red was hit by a car on his way to school, mother turned pale with fright.

近 义 心惊胆战

大惊小怪 dà jīng xiǎo guài

make a fuss about nothing

释 义 对不值得惊异的事情表现得过于惊讶、奇怪。

Paraphrase Be too surprised or alarmed at something quite normal.

例句 1 你怎么总是～的，一点儿也不像四十岁的人。

Example 1 How come you always make a fuss about nothing, not at all like a man of 40.

例句 2 有什么～的，还有比这更高级的电脑呢！

Example 2 There's nothing to make a fuss about. There are still more sophisticated computers!

大名鼎鼎 dà míng dǐng dǐng

celebrated

释 义 非常出名，非常有名气。鼎鼎：盛大、显赫。

Paraphrase Widely known, renowned. "鼎鼎": grand, eminent.

例句 1 他是我们这里～的一级厨师。

Example 1 He is a first-class chef of great reputation here.

例句 2 你不认识他？他就是～的作家王蒙先生。

Example 2 You don't know him? He is Mr. Wang Meng, the renowned writer.

近 义 赫赫有名

反 义 默默无闻

大模大样 dà mú dà yàng

in an ostentatious manner

释 义 形容自以为了不起、旁若无人的样子。

Paraphrase In a self-conceited or supercilious manner.

例句 1 狐狸～地走在老虎的前面，动物们见了，纷纷逃跑。

Example 1 The fox walks with a swagger ahead of the tiger. At the sight of it the animals run away one after another.

例句 2 看他们～的，谁也没有怀疑他们是窃贼。

Example 2 They acted in such an ostentatious manner that no one ever thought that they might be thieves.

近 义 大摇大摆

反 义 蹑手蹑脚

大千世界 dà qiān shì jiè

the boundless universe

释 义 佛教语。指以须弥山为中心，以铁围山为外部，是同一日月所照的小世界。一千个小世界合起来就是小千世界，一千个小千世界合起来就是中千世界，一千个中千世界合起来就是大千世界。后用来泛指广阔无边的世界。

Paraphrase A term in Buddhism. The area with Mount Xumi as its center and Mount Tiewei as its periphery is a minor universe shone by one sun and moon. 1000 minor universes comprise a minor "thousand universe," 1000 minor "thousand universes" a medium "thousand universe"and 1000 medium "thousand universes" a major "thousand universe." In later use, the boundless cosmos in general.

例句 1 ～，无奇不有。

Example 1 In the boundless universe, there is no lack of strange things.

例句 2 她这么单纯，怎能应对复杂的～？

Example 2 Such a simple girl, how can she cope with a complicated world?

大失所望 dà shī suǒ wàng

greatly disappointed

释 义 表示原来的希望完全落空。大：甚，极，很。

Paraphrase All one's previous hopes are dashed. "大": much, greatly, very.

例句 1 看了报纸的宣传，我赶紧买了电影票，可是看了以后～。

Example 1 The newspaper report prompted me to buy a ticket. However, after seeing the movie, I was greatly disappointed.

例句 2 都说那个地方很漂亮，我兴致勃勃地去了一趟，结果～。

Example 2 That place is said to be very beautiful. Therefore, I went in high spirits, only to find myself greatly disappointed.

反 义 大喜过望

大手大脚 dà shǒu dà jiǎo

be free with one's money

释 义 不精打细算而铺张浪费，任意挥霍财力物力。

Paraphrase Extravagant and wasteful without careful calculation and strict budgeting, only squander money and materials.

例句 1 他花钱总是～的，不知道节约。

Example 1 He is used to being free with his money and has no idea of being frugal.

例句 2 他～惯了，所以没有多少积蓄。

Example 2 He is used to being free with his money, so he has little savings.

近 义 铺张浪费

反 义 精打细算

大同小异 dà tóng xiǎo yì

alike except for slight differences

释 义 大体相同，稍有差异。

Paraphrase Much the same but with minor differences.

例句 1 你们俩的方案～，别再争了。

Example 1 You two have much the same plan, so just stop arguing.

例句 2 我看来看去，这幅画和他以前画的～，没有什么新意。

Example 2 After much examining, I felt this picture was much the same as those he drew before, with no new conceptions incorporated.

反 义 大相径庭

大喜过望 dà xǐ guò wàng

be delighted that things turn out better than expected

释 义 指所得超过了自己原来的希望，因而感到特别高兴。过：超过；望：希望。

Paraphrase Get more than expected and feel greatly delighted. "过": exceed; "望": expect.

例句 1 塞翁走失的马回来以后，还带回来一匹骏马，塞翁～。

Example 1 The old frontiersman found to his delight that his strayed horse return accompanied by a fine horse.

例句 2 我在运动会的男子 100 米短跑比赛中得了冠军，真是～。

Example 2 I was greatly delighted that things turned out better than expected, for I had won the championship of the 100-meter sprint in the sports meeting.

近义 喜出望外

反义 大失所望

道听途说 dào tīng tú shuō

hearsay; gossip

释义 在路上听来的话，又向他人胡乱传播。比喻没有根据的传言。途：道路。

Paraphrase Spread irresponsibly something one hears on his journey, groundless rumors. "途": road.

例句 1 你可不能把～的事情作为法律依据。

Example 1 On no account must you take hearsay as legal evidence.

例句 2 你不要～，更不要到处散布谣传。

Example 2 Don't believe any gossip, still less spread it.

典故 有一户姓丁的人家，父子俩以种地为生。他们每天天不亮他们就得到十几里外的水井去打水，非常辛苦。后来他们省吃俭用，凑钱找人在门前打了一口井。从此吃水用水都不费力，如同省了一个劳力。这件事情很快就传开了。张三对李四说："丁家打了一口井，省了一个劳力。"李四对王二说："我听说丁家打了一口井，儿子不小心掉进去了！"就这样一传十，十传百，传到最后，居然变成了："丁家儿子掉到了井里，第二天，尸体就不见了！"

得寸进尺 dé cùn jìn chǐ

give him an inch and he'll take a yard

释义 得到一寸，又想掠取一尺。形容贪得无厌，欲望和野心越来越大。

Paraphrase Reach for a yard after getting an inch. Be insatiable, with more and more strong desires and ambitions.

例句 1 我已经答应了他的要求，他还要～，让我很为难。

Example 1 I have already accepted his demand, but he then went as far as reading for a yard after getting an inch, making it really difficult for me.

例句 2 既然老师已经让你补考，你就别～了。

Example 2 Since the teacher has allowed you to make up the exam, don't reach for a yard after getting an inch.

近 义 得陇望蜀

得心应手 dé xīn yìng shǒu

with facility; with high proficiency

释 义 指心里想怎么样，手上便能怎么样，心手相应，技艺纯熟。也指事情办得顺利。

Paraphrase Do with one's hands whatever one's heart desires. One does his work with high proficiency. It also implies that things are going well.

例句 1 日本留学生写汉字当然是～，欧美学生写汉字就困难多了。

Example 1 Japanese students are certainly able to write Chinese characters with facility, while it's much more difficult for European and American students.

例句 2 小龙平时就注意积累生活中的素材，所以写起文章来～。

Example 2 Xiao Long is always focused on gathering material in everyday life, so he can write with facility.

得意忘形 dé yì wàng xíng

have one's head turned by success

释 义 因高兴而忘乎所以，失去常态。形：身体，常态。

Paraphrase Be carried away and lose one's head because of

great joy. “形”：body，normal behavior.

例句 1 听到这个消息后，他～地说：“我永远也不会犯那样的错误。”

Example 1 At the news，he seemed to have lost his head and said，“I can never make that kind of mistakes.”

例句 2 看他那副～的样子，大家都觉得十分可笑。

Example 2 His haughty air just looked ridiculous to everybody.

近义 忘乎所以

低三下四 dī sān xià sì

servile；obsequious

释义 指社会地位低下，也形容卑躬屈膝讨好人的样子。

Paraphrase Low in rank or social class；also，a beseeching or flattering manner.

例句 1 你不能对这种人～，这样他更看不起你。

Example 1 You can't show humbleness towards people of this sort. He will look down upon you even more.

例句 2 我最看不惯他～的样子。

Example 2 I can in no way put up with his servile attitude.

近义 低声下气

反义 高人一等 趾高气扬

滴水穿石 dī shuǐ chuān shí

dripping water wears through rock；little strokes fell great oaks

释义 一滴一滴地滴下来的水，时间长了，可以把石头打穿。比喻尽管力量小，只要坚持不懈，也可以把艰难的事情办成。

Paraphrase Dripping water，little by little，can wear through rock over time. A metaphor，though weak in power，one can still

manage to accomplish a difficult task with perseverance.

例句 1 ～，铁杵成针，都是值得大家思考的道理。

Example 1 Dripping water wears through rock and an iron rod can be ground into a needle. Both are thought-provoking truths.

例句 2 学习外语不能指望一口吃成胖子，必须要有～的精神。

Example 2 In learning a foreign language，you can't expect to get fat on one mouthful. The spirit of dripping water wearing through rock is indispensable.

掉以轻心 diào yǐ qīng xīn

relax one's vigilance；treat something lightly

释 义 对待事物采取轻视、疏忽、不谨慎的态度。掉：摆弄，对待；轻心：不注意，思想疏忽。

Paraphrase To deal with something with a casual，neglectful or heedless attitude. "掉"：fiddle with，treat；"轻心"：inadvertent，careless.

例句 1 你不要～，经过四年的准备，他们的实力不一定比我们差。

Example 1 Four years of preparation has made them no less powerful than us. Don't treat them lightly.

例句 2 我们的对手是上届比赛的冠军，所以我们绝不能～。

Example 2 Our opponent is the defending champion，so we should never treat him lightly.

东倒西歪 dōng dǎo xī wāi

tottering

释 义 往东倒又往西歪。形容站立不稳的样子。

Paraphrase Lean eastwards，then westwards. The state of tottering while standing.

例句 1 海啸过后,海边的房屋~,有的已经被冲没了影。

Example 1 In the aftermath of the tsunami, those seaside houses tumbled down, some even washed away completely.

例句 2 那个酒鬼又喝醉了,他~地走出了饭馆。

Example 2 The alcoholic got drunk again, and tottered out of the restaurant.

近 义 七扭八歪

豆蔻年华 dòu kòu nián huá

(of a girl) in one's early teens

释 义 豆蔻,将要开花的时光。指女孩子十三四岁时期。豆蔻:多年生草本植物,常喻指十三四岁的姑娘。

Paraphrase The days when the round cardamom is about to flower. The days of a girl at the age of 13-14. "豆蔻": an evergreen herbage with a lifespan of more than one year. A metaphor, a girl of 13 or 14.

例句 1 看着少年时期的照片,回想自己的~,王女士感慨万端。

Example 1 Looking at the photos of her youth and recollecting those days in her teens, Ms. Wang couldn't help sighing, all sorts of feelings welling up in her mind.

例句 2 孩子们正值~,怎么看怎么可爱。

Example 2 The children are just in their teens. They just look lovely in every way.

近 义 花样年华

独占鳌头 dú zhàn áo tóu

come out first

释 义 指居于首位或取得第一。科举时代,考中状元者站在殿前镌刻着巨鳌的石阶上迎榜,因而称状元及第为"独占鳌头"。鳌:传

说中的大海龟。

Paraphrase Be the champion or head the list of successful candidates. In the age of imperial examinations, the Number One Scholar used to stand on the stone carving of a gigantic turtle in front of the royal palace to greet the list of successful candidates. Therefore, when the Number One Scholar is known to be the first in an imperial examination, we say "独占鳌头". "鳌": a legendary huge turtle.

例句 1 这次比赛,哪个队~?

Example 1 Which team came out first in the tournament?

例句 2 经过紧张激烈的比赛,王丰~,打破了全国记录。

Example 2 Wang Feng eventually came out first after fierce competition and broke a national record.

短小精悍 duǎn xiǎo jīng hàn

not of imposing stature but strong and capable; (of a piece of writing) short and pithy; terse and forceful

释 文 形容人矮小灵巧,精明干练。也形容文章简练有力,内容深刻。也作"短小精干"。

Paraphrase (Of a person) short in figure and nimble, astute and experienced. (Also of an article) brief and keen with profundity of meaning.

例句 1 我最喜欢看~的小品文。

Example 1 I'd prefer to read those terse and forceful essays.

例句 2 这篇文章好就好在~,发人深思。

Example 2 I prefer this article in that it's short and pithy, setting people thinking.

对牛弹琴 duì niú tán qín

play the lute to a cow—address the wrong audience

释 义 比喻对不懂道理的人讲道理或对外行人说内行话。也用来讥笑说话的人不看对象。

Paraphrase A metaphor, reason with someone who won't reason with you, or talk to a layman in a professional way. Also used to mock those who address the wrong audience.

例句 1 我对电脑一窍不通,你跟我讲网络,那不是～吗?

Example 1 I know nothing about computers, so you are simply addressing the wrong audience if you are going to talk to me about internet.

例句 2 你别再费心了,跟他费口舌,简直是～!

Example 2 Don't take any more trouble explaining anything to him. It's practically playing the lute to a cow.

典 故 古时候,有一个叫公明仪的人,精通乐理,善于弹琴。有一天,他看见一头牛在低头吃草,觉得它很寂寞,于是就为它弹起美妙的乐曲来。可是自始至终牛只顾低头吃草,根本无动于衷,公明仪百思不得其解。其实,牛哪里听得懂他的音乐啊!

多才多艺 duō cái duō yì

versatile

释 义 有多种才艺,会多种技艺。

Paraphrase Gifted or skillful in many ways.

例句 1 现代社会需要～的人。

Example 1 Modern society requires that a person be versatile.

例句 2 林老师是个～的人,琴、棋、书、画,样样都行。

Example 2 Mr. Lin is a versatile man, acquainted with the art of playing the lute, chess, calligraphy, and painting.

反 义 一窍不通

多此一举 duō cǐ yī jǔ

make an unnecessary move

释 义 所采取的行动毫无必要，完全是多余的。

Paraphrase The actions taken are completely unnecessary or unwanted.

例句 1 他俩早就认识，不用你～地替他们介绍了。

Example 1 They've known each other for quite a long time, so there's no need for you to make an introduction.

例句 2 早知道你不喜欢这样的礼物，我何必～？

Example 2 If I had known earlier that you don't like this kind of present, I wouldn't have taken the trouble.

多多益善 duō duō yì shàn

the more the better

释 义 越多越好。益：更加。

Paraphrase The more the better. "益": more.

例句 1 对奥运会的宣传报道～。

Example 1 The Olympic Games should be given more coverage. The more the better.

例句 2 我们这里正缺群众演员呢，希望你能找人来，～。

Example 2 We are just short of extras here and I wish you could find some for us. The more the better.

反 义 宁缺毋滥

典 故 韩信帮助刘邦打败了项羽，为刘邦统一天下立下了汗马功劳。可是有人向刘邦告状，说韩信要谋反。刘邦就设计把韩信抓了起来，后来虽然放了，可是韩信知道刘邦不放心自己，心里一直闷闷不乐。一次刘邦找韩信谈论各位将领的才能。刘邦问："像我这样的人，能带多少兵？"韩信说："您最多能带十万人。"刘邦问："那么你呢？""臣

多多益善耳(我带兵越多越好)。”刘邦问:“既然你能带那么多兵,为什么又被我抓住呢?”韩信说:“您虽然不能带很多的兵,但是您善于指挥将领,所以我就被您抓住了。”

E

阿谀奉承 ē yú fèng chéng

toady to; suck up to

释 义 为讨好而说好听的话恭维别人。又作“阿谀逢迎”。阿(不读 ā)谀：用好听的话逢迎；奉承：迎合人。

Paraphrase Compliment someone in a flattering manner. Also “阿谀逢迎”. “阿(not pronounced ā)谀”: fawn over someone with pleasing words; “奉承”: cater for someone.

例句 1 我宁可失去这个机会，也不愿对他～。

Example 1 I'd rather lose this opportunity than suck up to him.

例句 2 你每天对他说～的话，不觉得累吗？

Example 2 Don't you feel tiresome fawning over him every day?

反 义 刚正不阿

婀娜多姿 ē nuó duō zī

(of a woman's body) lithe and graceful

释 义 形容女子身姿柔和而美好。婀娜：柔软美好。

Paraphrase (Of a woman's body) supple and beautiful. “婀娜”: lithe and graceful.

例句 1 我最喜欢看～的飞天形象。

Example 1 The images of those goddesses flying gracefully towards the sky are my favorite.

例句 2 在舞台灯光的映衬下，姑娘们～，宛若天仙。

Example 2 Under the stage lights, all the girls looked just like goddesses from heaven, lithe and graceful.

恩将仇报 ēn jiāng chóu bào

requite kindness with enmity; return hate for love; bite the hand that feeds one

释义 受人恩惠反而用仇恨来回报。形容忘恩负义。将：拿，把；报：报答。

Paraphrase Return a favour bestowed with hatred. Ungrateful. “将”: take, use; “报”: repay.

例句 1 他是我的救命恩人，我怎能～？

Example 1 He is the one who saved my life. How could I bite the hand that feeds me?

例句 2 人家救了你的命，你却～，你的良心到哪里去了？

Example 2 He saved your life yet you returned hate for love. Where's your conscience?

耳目一新 ěr mù yī xīn

find everything fresh and new

释义 耳朵听见的，眼睛看见的，一下变得很新奇。形容感觉与以往大不相同，使人振奋。

Paraphrase Everything heard or seen turned altogether different. Have a much different and stimulating feeling.

例句 1 张艺谋是一个喜欢探索的电影导演，他的作品总能给人～的感觉。

Example 1 Zhang Yimou is a film director fond of experimenting, so we always find everything in his work fresh and new.

例句 2 我看惯了民族舞蹈，今天第一次看现代舞表演，真是～。

Example 2 As one who had got used to folk dancing, I really found everything fresh and new when I was watching the modern dancing art performance today for the first time.

F

发人深省 fā rén shēn xǐng

call for deep thought

释 义 启发人深思，并有所醒悟。发：启发；省(不读 shěng)：醒悟。

Paraphrase Set people thinking and have them come to see the truth. "发": enlighten; "省(not pronounced shěng)": wake up to reality.

例句 1 农夫和蛇的故事～。

Example 1 The tale of the farmer and the snake calls for deep thought.

例句 2 这篇文章不仅感人至深，而且～。

Example 2 This essay not only touches one to the depths of his soul but sets him thinking as well.

近 义 发人深思

翻来覆去 fān lái fù qù

toss and turn

释 义 躺在床上翻过来，调过去，多指睡不着觉。也形容多变、反复无常。有时指某个动作重复多次。

Paraphrase Toss and turn in bed, mostly, unable to sleep. Sometimes, changeable, capricious. Also, repeatedly.

例句 1 得到哥哥去世的消息，小夏～地想了一个晚上，也不知道要不要把这个噩耗告诉父亲。

Example 1 Word came that his brother had passed away. Af-

ter having tossed and turned in bed for a whole night, Xiao Xia still felt it hard to decide whether he should inform his father or not.

例句 2 我把这个道理～地讲给他听，可他就是听不进去。

Example 2 I tried to reason with him again and again, but he simply wouldn't listen.

近 义 辗转反侧

翻箱倒柜 fān xiāng dǎo guì

rummage through chests and cabinets

释 义 把箱子、柜子都翻倒过来，形容彻底搜查。也比喻无保留地拿出自己的东西。

Paraphrase Turn over chests and cabinets, search thoroughly. Sometimes a metaphor, take out all one has without reserve.

例句 1 你～地找什么呢？

Example 1 What are you looking for, rummaging through these chests and cabinets?

例句 2 你平时不好好整理，要出门时才～地乱找，真要命！

Example 2 You always put things in a mess and rummage through just when you are about to leave home. What an awful nuisance!

返老还童 fǎn lǎo huán tóng

recover one's youthful vigour

释 义 原指道教传说中使老年返回童年的却老术。后形容老年人恢复了青春。

Paraphrase Originally, a magic art in Taoist legends that can restore an old man to the state of his youth. In later use, (of an old man) recover one's youthful vigour.

例句 1 老张从去年开始练习打太极拳，现在好像～了似的，身体特别硬朗。

Example 1 Since last year when he began to practice Taijiquan, Lao Zhang has turned hale and hearty as if he had recovered his youthful vigour.

例句 2 多年不见，我们都变成了老头子老太婆，你却显得那么年轻，有什么～的秘诀？

Example 2 We haven't seen each other for ages and have both become old. However, you still appear youthful. What is your secret?

肺腑之言 fèi fǔ zhī yán

words from the bottom of one's heart

释 义 发自内心的话。肺腑：人的内脏部分，借指内心。

Paraphrase Sincere words. "肺腑": man's viscera, implying one's heart.

例句 1 朋友的一番～，感动得他热泪盈眶。

Example 1 Words from the heart of his friend's heart made his eyes brim with tears.

例句 2 这都是他的～，你就原谅他吧。

Example 2 These are the words from the bottom of his heart. So forgive him.

废寝忘食 fèi qǐn wàng shí

forget to eat and sleep

释 义 不去睡觉，忘记吃饭。形容专心致志地干某一件事，顾不上吃饭睡觉。废：停止，废除；寝：睡觉。

Paraphrase Not go to bed and forget to have one's meals. Be engrossd in one's work and neglect one's dinner and sleep. "废":

suspend, cancel;"寝": sleep.

例句 1 你这样～,会把身体弄坏的。

Example 1 You'll ruin your health with such a neglect of your meals and sleep.

例句 2 最近公司有几个大项目,王经理常常～地工作,他的家人十分担心。

Example 2 Recently Director Wang has been so busy with some of his company's big projects that he often forget to eat and sleep while working. His family are worried about him.

分道扬镳 fēn dào yáng biāo

part company

释义 踏上不同的道路,扬起各自的马嚼子示意,指分道而行。也比喻因为思想、志趣不同而各干各的事。道:道路;镳:马嚼子。

Paraphrase When taking different roads, pull the mouth of one's horse to signify, going different ways. A metaphor, unable to go along with another person due to disagreements in views and ideas. "道": road; "镳": bit.

例句 1 他们俩的性格、爱好和家庭背景都不一样,婚后不久就～了。

Example 1 They had different temperaments, tastes, and family backgrounds. And they parted company soon after getting married.

例句 2 他们曾经是同甘共苦的朋友,怎么会～?

Example 2 They used to be friends who shared (everything) weal and woe. How come they've parted company?

丰衣足食 fēng yī zú shí

have ample food and clothing

释 义 衣食丰富而充足。形容生活宽裕。

Paraphrase Be well-fed and well-clothed. Well off. Living comfortably.

例句 1 中国正在步入小康社会,老百姓过着～的生活。

Example 1 The Chinese society are entering a stage where people are generally well off. Everybody has ample food and clothing.

例句 2 现在经济情况好了,人民～,汽车已经开始进入一般家庭了。

Example 2 The current economic situation is better. The people are all well-fed and well-clothed, cars are gradually becoming accessible to ordinary families.

风尘仆仆 fēng chén pú pú

be travel-stained; be travel-worn and weary

释 义 形容长途奔波、十分劳累的样子。风尘:形容旅途艰辛;仆仆:奔波疲劳的样子。

Paraphrase Have endured the hardships of a long journey and feel exhausted. "风尘": the hardships of a long journey; "仆仆": worn out after a busy trip.

例句 1 看他们～的样子,一定是远方来客。

Example 1 Judging from their travel-stained look, they must be guests from afar.

例句 2 他们刚从西藏回来,个个～。

Example 2 They just came back from Tibet, all travel-worn and weary.

风驰电掣 fēng chí diàn chè

swift as the wind and quick as lightning

释 义 像疾风一样驰去,像电光一样闪过,形容速度很快。驰:

急速地奔跑；掣：很快地闪过。

Paraphrase Speed away like a gust of wind and flash by like lightning. At lightning speed. “驰”: run at a gallop; “掣”: flash by swiftly.

例句 1 我问他为什么老开快车，他说是因为喜欢～的感觉。

Example 1 I asked him why he always push the pedal to the floor and he replied that he enjoyed the feeling when he could drive at lightning speed.

例句 2 他驾着新买的车，～般地赶到市中心。

Example 2 He drove his new car rushing downtown, swift as the wind and quick as lightning.

风平浪静 fēng píng liàng jìng

calm and tranquil

释义 风已平息，浪已寂静。指水面没有了风浪，显出安闲宁静的景象。比喻平静无事。

Paraphrase The wind has dropped and the waves have subsided. An unruffled sea, serene and peaceful. A metaphor, unaffected by disturbance.

例句 1 百慕大三角平时～的，根本看不出会有什么危险。

Example 1 Normally, the Bermuda Triangle is calm and tranquil, showing no signs of danger at all.

例句 2 刚才还波涛滚滚，转眼就～了。

Example 2 The surging waves subsided within the blink of an eye.

风言风语 fēng yán fēng yǔ

slanderous gossip

释义 毫无根据或污蔑的话。也指私下议论或背地里散布某些传闻。

Paraphrase Groundless or insulting words. Also, talk about something or spread rumors behind somebody's back.

例句 1 你也相信别人的～吗？

Example 1 Do you also believe that slanderous gossip?

例句 2 不要在乎他们的～，走自己的路，让别人说去吧。

Example 2 Don't mind those groundless talks. Go your own way and let others talk as they please.

风雨同舟 fēng yǔ tóng zhōu

in the same storm-tossed boat

释 义 在狂风暴雨中同乘一条船，一起与风雨搏斗。比喻互相帮助，共同经历苦难。

Paraphrase In the same boat during a violent storm, struggling together. A metaphor, help each other and stand together through thick and thin.

例句 1 这对夫妻～地走过了六十年的生活道路。

Example 1 This couple stood together through thick and thin for 60 years.

例句 2 我们是～的老朋友，怎能不为今天的成就而激动？

Example 2 We are old friends in the same storm-tossed boat. How could we not be excited with today's achievement?

敷衍了事 fū yǎn liǎo shì

muddle through one's work

释 义 将就应付地把事办了。指做事不认真，责任心差。敷衍：将就，应付，不认真；了（不读 le）：了结。

Paraphrase Succeed in doing something, but not in a very satisfactory or responsible way. "敷衍": perfunctory, go through the motions (of doing something), idle; "了 (not pronounced le)": finish.

例句 1 他一向喜欢～，这次能认真负责吗？

Example 1 He always muddles through his work. Can he really be responsible this time?

例句 2 既然答应了人家，就应该把事情做好，别～。

Example 2 You should try your best to do it as you have promised. Don't muddle it through.

扶老携幼 fú lǎo xié yòu

hold the old by the arm and the young by the hand

释 义 搀扶着老人，领着小孩。形容男女老少一齐出动或对老人和幼童的爱护。扶：搀扶；携：拉着，领着。

Paraphrase Bring along the old and the young. Men and women, the old and the young, move together along. Also, take good care of old people and kids. "扶": support somebody by the arm; "携": pull, lead.

例句 1 八达岭长城上，游人们～，兴致勃勃。

Example 1 On the Great Wall of Bada Mountain, those tourists—men and women, the old and the young—support each other by the arm and move along in high spirits.

例句 2 这里的交通协管员特别尽职，而且十分热心，马路上常常有他们～的身影。

Example 2 We have some very conscientious and warm-hearted traffic coordinators here, who can be frequently seen working on the street.

负荆请罪 fù jīng qǐng zuì

proffer a birch and ask for a flogging

释 义 背着荆条，请求责罚。形容认识自身过错后，虚心认错赔罪。负：背着；荆：荆条；请罪：请求责罚。

Paraphrase Carry a birch on the back and ask for a flogging. Offer a humble apology after realizing one's own fault. "负": carry on the back; "荆": twigs of the chaste tree; "请罪": ask for punishment.

例句 1 那件事是我做错了,今天特地来～。

Example 1 That's my fault. Today I've come specially to proffer a birch and ask for a flogging.

例句 2 既然他已经～了,你就原谅他吧。

Example 2 Now that he has offered a humble apology, just forgive him.

典 故 战国时,蔺相如任赵国宰相,大将廉颇对身居相位的蔺相如很不服气,多次表现出骄横无礼。蔺相如一再退让,因为他认为将相如果不和,对国家没有好处。后经别人讲明道理,廉颇身背荆条,登门认错,请求责罚。从此将相和睦,赵国更加强盛。

妇孺皆知 fù rú jiē zhī

known even to women and children

释 义 妇女和小孩子全都知道。形容大家都知道或一看就明白的简单事物。孺:小孩子。

Paraphrase Women and children all know something. (Of something) known to all or simple enough for everyone to know at a glance. "孺": little kids.

例句 1 草船借箭是～的故事。

Example 1 The tale of Zhuge Liang cheating arrows with straw boats is known even to women and children.

例句 2 春节是～的中国传统节日。

Example 2 The Spring Festival is a commonly known traditional Chinese holiday.

近 义 家喻户晓

G

高山流水 gāo shān liú shuǐ

high mountains and flowing waters

释 义 比喻知音难遇，也比喻乐曲高深。

Paraphrase A metaphor, suggesting that it is indeed difficult to find an understanding friend and also suggesting sublime music.

例句 1 他俩一见面就谈诗歌，真是～遇知音，让人羡慕。

Example 1 On meeting each other they would talk about nothing but poetry. Like high mountains and flowing waters, their friendship is truly admirable.

例句 2 他的音乐向来是～，一般听众很难听懂。

Example 2 His music is always something of high mountains and flowing waters, normally inaccessible to listeners.

典 故 传说在春秋战国时代，有一个人叫俞伯牙，非常擅长弹琴作曲，他的好朋友钟子期是一位有着很高音乐欣赏能力的行家。一次，钟子期又在听伯牙弹琴，当伯牙弹到描写高山的曲调时，钟子期说："好啊，好像高高的泰山屹立在眼前！"当他弹到描写流水的曲调时，钟子期说："好像奔腾不息的滚滚江河！"

格格不入 gé gé bù rù

out of tune with

释 义 形容彼此不协调，不相容。格格：阻碍，抵触。

Paraphrase Out of line, incompatible. "格格": block, collide.

例句 1 他俩总是～的，不知到底有什么矛盾。

Example 1 They are always out of tune with each other, don't

know what conflict lies between them.

例句 2 他俩的观点总是～，别把他们分在一组了。

Example 2 They are always holding conflicting views, so don't put them in a team.

各奔前程 gè bèn qián chéng

each pursues his own course

释 义 各走各的路。比喻各人按不同的志向，寻找自己的前途。奔：奔向；前程：前途。

Paraphrase Each goes his own way. A metaphor, each pursues his own course at his own will. "奔": march on towards; "前程": future.

例句 1 兄弟俩长到十八岁，就离开父母～了。

Example 1 The two brothers left their parents at the age of 18 and went pursuing their own courses.

例句 2 公司倒闭之后，员工们只好～。

Example 2 After the company went bankrupt, the employees just had to pursue their ways.

各持己见 gè chí jǐ jiàn

each sticks to his own view

释 义 各自坚持自己的意见。持：坚持；见：见解，意见。

Paraphrase Each sticks to his own view. "持": insist on; "见": view, idea.

例句 1 讨论会上，大家～，争执不下。

Example 1 During the discussion, each stuck to his own view and would not yield an inch.

例句 2 在讨论下一步计划时，他们俩～，互不相让，我十分为难。

Example 2 During the discussion, on planning the next step they both insisted on their own views and didn't give way to each other, making of very difficult for me.

各有千秋 gè yǒu qiān qiū

each has something offer

释 义 原指每个事物都有可以长久流传下去的价值。后比喻各人有各人的长处,各人有各人的特色。千秋:千年,指流传久远。

Paraphrase Everything has something that can last. A metaphor, each one has his own strong points or distinguishing feature. "千秋": a thousand years, suggesting some lasting good.

例句 1 这两篇小说~,不相上下。

Example 1 The two novels each have something to offer, they're on a par.

例句 2 茅台和五粮液都是中国名酒,但仔细品味,它们又~。

Example 2 Both Maotai and Wuliangye are famous Chinese wines. However, if you taste them, each has its own merits.

耿耿于怀 gěng gěng yú huái

brood on; take something to heart

释 义 怀着心事,老不痛快。耿耿:有心事的样子。

Paraphrase Be laden with anxiety. "耿耿": the state of having something weighing on one's mind.

例句 1 那件事已经过去那么久了,他仍然~。

Example 1 He still broods on that although it has long past.

例句 2 你应该大度一些,别老是~的。

Example 2 You should be more tolerant. Don't keep brooding on it.

孤陋寡闻 gū lòu guǎ wén

ignorant and ill-informed

释 义 形容见闻少，学识浅薄。陋：见闻不广；闻：听。

Paraphrase Lack experience and knowledge. "陋": not of wide experience; "闻": hear.

例句 1 和～的人打交道很没意思。

Example 1 It's rather boring to have dealings with ignorant and ill-informed people.

例句 2 ～的人常常少见多怪。

Example 2 The less a man has been, the more he has to wonder at. Ignorant and ill-informed people often make a fuss about nothing.

近 义 才疏学浅

反 义 见多识广

古往今来 gǔ wǎng jīn lái

throughout the ages; from time immemorial

释 义 从古到今。

Paraphrase From ancient times to the present.

例句 1 ～，有很多历史都在重演。

Example 1 Throughout the ages, much of the past has been repeated.

例句 2 ～，无数仁人志士为祖国献出了生命。

Example 2 Throughout the ages, countless people, with high ideals, sacrificed their lives for their country.

顾此失彼 gù cǐ shī bǐ

cannot attend to one thing without neglecting the other

释 义 顾了这个，丢了那个。

Paraphrase Neglect one thing while attending to another.

例句 1 高考快到了，老师告诫学生们要认真安排各门功课的复习，不要～。

Example 1 With the approach of the College Entrance Examination, the teachers advised the students to carefully plan for the revision of different subjects to avoid having to take care of too many at the same time.

例句 2 母亲病了，他又要跑医院，又要照顾弟弟妹妹，常常～。

Example 2 His mother fell ill, so he had to attend the hospital and at the same time take care of his younger brothers and sisters, so busy that he often attended to one thing and neglected the other.

顾名思义 gù míng sī yì

just as its name implies; as the term suggests

释 义 从名称想到所包含的意思或意义。顾：看；义：意义。

Paraphrase Seeing the name of a thing, one thinks of its function or value. "顾": see; "义": meaning.

例句 1 "国际关系"，～，就是指国家与国家之间的关系。

Example 1 Internation Relations, as the term suggests, is about the relationships between countries.

例句 2 美眉(MM)，～，就是漂亮女孩。

Example 2 MM stands for "Meimei", Chinese for "fine eyebrows", which as its name implies, means a pretty girl.

刮目相看 guā mù xiāng kàn

look at somebody with new eyes

释 义 指另眼看待，用新眼光看人。刮目：擦亮眼睛。

Paraphrase Regard somebody with favor or view somebody in

a new, more favorable light. “刮目”: rub one’s eyes.

例句 1 几年不见，他的成绩让以前嘲笑他的人～。

Example 1 Not seen for a few years, those who used to laugh at him, begin to see him in a new light for his achievements.

例句 2 平时文文静静的小刘竟然制服了一个凶狠的抢劫犯，真令人～。

Example 2 Xiao Liu, normally quiet and gentle, made everyone rub his eyes by subduing a fierce robber.

近 义 另眼相看

怪模怪样 guài mú guài yàng

queer-looking

释 义 模样非常奇怪的样子。

Paraphrase Look odd.

例句 1 别看这只小狗～的，它可是世界名犬。

Example 1 Queer-looking as it is, this little dog is really a world-famous breed.

例句 2 她今天打扮得～的，一问才知道她要去参加朋友举办的万圣节晚会。

Example 2 Today she dressed up all weirdly, I asked and learned that she was going to a Halloween paty at night.

归心似箭 guī xīn sì jiàn

with one’s heart set on speeding home

释 义 想回家的心情像射出的箭一样急速。形容回家心切。归心：回家的念头。

Paraphrase Anxious to return with one’s heart set on speeding home as quickly as a shooting arrow. Impatient to get back. “归

心”：the idea to return home.

例句 1 还没有放学，小刚就已经～，因为今天是母亲出院的日子。

Example 1 Still in class, Xiaogang was already impatient to get home. For today is the day that his mother will leave the hospital.

例句 2 其实离回国还有很长一段时间，但他已是～，早就把回国的东西都准备好了。

Example 2 Actually there is still quite a long time before his return to his homeland. However, with his heart set on speeding home, he got everything prepared for his return ages ago.

反 义 乐不思蜀

鬼使神差 guǐ shǐ shén chāi

doings of ghosts and gods

释 义 好像有鬼神支使着一样，不知不觉做了原先没想要做的事。使、差：指使，派遣。

Paraphrase Seem under the control of ghosts and gods and do something unintentionally. “使”、“差”：order about, send away.

例句 1 今天不知道是怎么了，我又～地走错了路。

Example 1 I have no idea why I got lost again today, it's like doings of ghosts and gods.

例句 2 小偷偷了自行车以后，又～地回到了作案现场，正好被当场抓获。

Example 2 After stealing the bike, the thief returned to the scene of the crime like doings of ghosts and gods, only to find himself arrested on the spot.

近 义 不由自主

H

和颜悦色 hé yán yuè sè

have a genial expression

释 义 和蔼的面容，愉快的脸色。形容态度温和可亲。颜：面容；悦：喜悦；色：脸上的表情。

Paraphrase Friendly face and sweet countenance, mild and affable. "颜": look; "悦": joyous; "色": facial expression.

例句 1 看他～的，怎么会是一个骗子？

Example 1 How can he, with such a friendly face, turn out to be a liar?

例句 2 小刘说话总是～的，从来没见她跟谁红过脸。

Example 2 Xiao Liu always talks in an affable way and has never flushed red arguing with anyone.

近 义 和蔼可亲

赫赫有名 hè hè yǒu míng

illustrious

释 义 声名非常大。赫赫：非常显著的样子。

Paraphrase Well known and very distinguished. "赫赫": eminent.

例句 1 王刚在这个小镇上～。

Example 1 Wang Gang is an illustrious figure in this small town.

例句 2 小齐是全省～的小提琴手。

Example 2 Xiao Qi is an eminent violinist throughout the

province.

反义 默默无闻 名不见经传

鹤立鸡群 hè lì jī qún

be/stand head and shoulders above somebody

释义 鹤站在鸡群中间，显得高出很多。比喻超出一般，与众不同。鹤：仙鹤。

Paraphrase Standing among a flock of chickens, a crane towers well above. A metaphor, distinguished, different from the common.

例句 1 站在这群女孩子之中，高菲简直是～。

Example 1 Standing among these girls, Gao Fei is almost like a crane standing among chickens.

例句 2 王青的乒乓球技术远远超过其他同事，真是～。

Example 2 Wang Qing's pingpang technique is head and shoulders above his colleagues.

恨铁不成钢 hèn tiě bù chéng gāng

wish that iron could turn straight into steel

释义 恨铁没有变成钢。形容因对所期望的人不争气、不上进而焦急、不满。

Paraphrase Worry that the iron has not yet turned into steel. Be anxious or unhappy about someone on whom you place hopes, his failure to make progress and live up to your expectations.

例句 1 爸爸的话说得是重了一些，但那是～，他的心情是可以理解的。

Example 1 Dad may have put it too strongly, but he simply wishes that iron could turn straight into steel. His anxiety is under-

standable.

例句 2 妈妈打了你一巴掌，其实她的心里更疼，她这是～啊。

Example 2 Mother slapped you, but her heart hurt more. She simply wishes that iron could turn straight into steel.

横冲直撞 héng chōng zhí zhuàng

push one's way by shoving and bumping; jostle and elbow one's way

释 义 一点也不顾忌地乱冲乱撞，蛮横无理。撞：冲撞。

Paraphrase Barge about, rude and unreasonable. "撞": jostle.

例句 1 喝醉酒的司机开着车在街上～，一连撞了三个行人。

Example 1 A drunken driver dashed his car around madly on the street, knocking down three passers-by in a row.

例句 2 受惊的马在街上～，吓得人们四散奔逃。

Example 2 Barging about on the street, the scared horse frightened people away in all directions.

后来居上 hòu lái jū shàng

the latecomers surpass the old-timers

释 义 比喻后来的超过先前的。居：处在。

Paraphrase A metaphor, the newcomers outrun those originally in the lead. "居": be.

例句 1 马克的汉语水平本来在全班是最差的，可是他～，很快就超过了其他同学。

Example 1 Mark's Chinese used to be the worst in the class. However, latecomers sometimes surpass the old-timers and he caught up with his classmates soon after.

例句 2 在丰田公司的带动下，日本的汽车制造业～，很快就位居世界前列。

Example 2 Under Honda's lead, the Japanese car manufacturing industry, as late-comers surpass the old-timers, very quickly occupies world frontrunner position.

典 故 汉武帝时，手下有一个叫汲黯的大夫，性格耿直，常让人下不来台，甚至对汉武帝也常常直言相劝。汉武帝很不高兴，就把他调到山东去当太守。后来汉武帝听说汲黯在山东政绩显著，深受百姓爱戴，就又把他调回京城，心想，经过这次波折，汲黯的脾气一定会有所改变。可没想到汲黯依然心直口快，依然时常劝诫武帝。这样，汲黯自然得不到重用，倒是那些原本比他地位低、会阿谀逢迎的人，反而得到汉武帝的宠爱，官越做越大，甚至超过了汲黯。汲黯很不服气，就直截了当地对汉武帝说："陛下选用臣子，就像堆柴那样，总是把前面的往下面放，而后面的倒放在上面。"

后起之秀 hòu qǐ zhī xiù

an up-and-coming youngster

释 义 后出现的或成长起来的优秀人物。秀：优异的。

Paraphrase An outstanding figure rising or maturing late. "秀": outstanding.

例句 1 近年来，我国体育事业发展迅速，～不断涌现。

Example 1 With the rapid development in physical education, our country has seen in recent years promising young athletes emerging in large numbers.

例句 2 和美国、德国相比，日本的汽车工业是～。

Example 2 Compared with the US and Germany, Japan has a young up-and-coming auto industry.

典 故 东晋时，有个少年才子叫王忱，文笔很好，但性格孤傲。一天，王忱到舅舅范宁家去做客，遇见了当时有名的江南才子张玄，但是当他看见张玄一副傲慢地等着自己先打招呼的样子，心里很不舒服，就没有主动说话。两个人闷了很久，结果张玄起身就走。范宁后

来知道了，责备王忱不会利用这个机会主动向张玄请教。王忱说："他那么傲慢，谁还愿意向他请教呢？为什么他就不能主动先找我谈谈呢？"范宁听了，拍拍他的肩膀说："有志气！真是后起之秀！将来一定能成大事。"后来，范宁把这件事告诉了张玄，张玄也认为自己做得不好，第二天特地登门拜访，向王忱道歉，王忱反而觉得很不好意思。从此，两人结成了知心朋友。

狐假虎威 hú jiǎ hǔ wēi

the fox borrows the tiger's fierceness (by walking in the latter's company)

释 义 比喻倚仗别人的势力欺压人。假：借。

Paraphrase A metaphor, bully someone by taking advantage of the power of another. "假": take advantage of.

例句 1 别看他盛气凌人的样子，其实他是～。

Example 1 He looks overbearing, though he is really just like the fox borrowing the tiger's fierceness.

例句 2 我看小王是想～，他以为别人怕他父亲就会买他的面子。

Example 2 As I see it, Xiao Wang simply wanted to act the fox which borrows the tiger's fierceness and expected others to give him face (in fear of) his father.

典 故 狐狸被老虎捉住了，老虎要吃狐狸。狐狸狡猾地说："你不能吃我，我是执行天帝命令的长官，你若吃了我，就是违抗天命。你不信，就跟在我身后看看，野兽看见我都会跑的。"于是，老虎就跟在狐狸后面，看狐狸说的是不是真的。果然，野兽看见它们就都跑了。老虎以为野兽真怕狐狸，而不知道它们原来是怕自己。

胡思乱想 hú sī luàn xiǎng

go off into flights of fancy; let one's imagination run away

释 义 指没有根据、不切实际地瞎想。胡：随意乱来。

Paraphrase Give way to groundless or foolish fancies. “胡”: indulge in.

例句 1 事情已经过去了，你就别～了。

Example 1 Don't give way to foolish fancies since this affair is already over now.

例句 2 他没有恶意，你可别～。

Example 2 Don't give way to foolish fancies. He bore you no ill will.

虎头蛇尾 hǔ tóu shé wěi

a tiger's head and a snake's tail; in like a lion, out like a lamb

释 义 比喻开始时声势很大，到后来劲头很小，做事有始无终。

Paraphrase A metaphor, a fine start and a poor finish. Start something but not carry it through.

例句 1 写文章最忌～。

Example 1 We should most cautiously avoid a tiger's head and a snake's tail in writing an article.

例句 2 有些人做事～，往往一开始很有声势，可到后来却不了了之。

Example 2 In like a lion, out like a lamb, some people tend to do things with a fine start but a poor finish.

近 义 有始无终

反 义 善始善终

华而不实 huá ér bù shí

flashy and without substance

释 义 原意是只开花不结果。后比喻外表漂亮而内容空虚。

Paraphrase Literally, bloom but no fruit. A metaphor, flashy

but without substance.

例句1 这个计划～，不能给环保带来真正的好处，不过倒是能让建筑商发财。

Example 1 This project is flashy but without substance. It can only bring big profits for the building companies involved, (but no) real help for environmental protection.

例句2 我们觉得这个做法有点儿～。

Example 2 We just think this way of doing things is a little flashy and without substance.

典 故 晋国大夫阳处父长得英俊潇洒，一表人才，无论走到哪里，人们都要多看他几眼。有一回他出使卫国，在一家客店里住宿时，引起了所有房客的注意。连店主都准备放弃生意，追随他去见识世界，增长本事。店主告别了妻子，一心一意地跟阳处父走了。没想到过了几天，店主就垂头丧气地回来了。他说："我原来以为阳处父模样好，一定是个品行高尚的人，可是相处几天才发现他品行不端，心术不正。我担心日子一长，不但没有学到本事，还会受到他的坑害，还是回来好好做我的生意吧。"后来人们听说了这件事，都说阳处父"华而不实"。

画饼充饥 huà bǐng chōng jī

draw cakes to allay hunger

释 义 画个饼来解饿。比喻虚假的东西于事无补。也比喻以空想来安慰自己。充饥：解饿。

Paraphrase A metaphor, something illusory is of no help. Also, comfort oneself with fancies. "充饥": allay hunger.

例句1 ～，等于自己欺骗自己。

Example 1 Drawing cakes to allay hunger is tantamount to self-delusion.

例句2 现在工厂已经没有原料了，如果不从根本上解决进货渠

道，像这样东拼西凑，～，可不能解决问题。

Example 2 The plant has run out of raw materials. What we are doing is simply drawing cakes to allay hunger. By piecing together everything is not going to solve the fundamental problem, we need to secure channels to replenish stock.

近义 望梅止渴

画龙点睛 huà lóng diǎn jīng

bring a picture of a dragon to life by putting in the pupils in its eyes

释义 比喻作文或说话时，在关键的地方用一两句话点明中心大意，使全篇内容更生动有力。点睛：画完眼眶后在中间用墨点眼珠子。

Paraphrase A metaphor, add an apt word to clinch the point and bring the whole article to life. "点睛": to point the eyeball with Chinese ink after drawing the eye sockets.

例句 1 这篇文章最后引用的那句名言，起到了～的作用。

Example 1 That famous quotation at the end of the essay adds the finishing touch.

例句 2 袁老师加的这段话，概括了全文，点明了主题，真是～的神来之笔。

Example 2 The paragraph Mr. Yuan added sums up the whole article and illustrates the main idea, a real finishing touch and a stroke of genius.

反义 画蛇添足

典故 传说南朝梁代画家张僧繇(yóu)在佛寺墙上画了四条龙，都不点眼睛，说是点了眼睛龙就会飞走。别人不信，非要他点上。他刚把其中两条龙的眼睛点上，就突然雷电交加，龙一下子飞上了天，墙上只剩下还没点眼睛的两条龙。

画蛇添足　huà shé tiān zú

draw a snake and add feet to it

释义　画好蛇以后却添上几只脚，比喻做了多余的事，反而不恰当。

Paraphrase　A metaphor, ruin the effect by adding something superfluous.

例句 1　这篇文章文字优美，内容充实，只是结尾有点儿～。

Example 1　This article was elegant in writing and substantial in content, only flaw is a somewhat superfluous ending.

例句 2　本来事情到这一步已经很完美了，可她却非要～，弄得大家不欢而散。

Example 2　Things could have been perfect, but she had to draw a snake and add feet to it, breaking up the party in discord.

近义　多此一举

反义　恰到好处

典故　春秋时，楚国有几个人得到了一壶酒，大家约定每人在地上画一条蛇，谁先画完谁就喝那壶酒。一个人先画完了，正准备喝酒，他又看了看自己画的蛇，感觉缺点儿东西，于是就给蛇画了几只脚。这时，另一个人也画好了，他说："蛇并没有脚啊。"说完，夺过酒壶一饮而尽。

欢天喜地　huān tiān xǐ dì

wild with joy

释义　形容非常高兴。

Paraphrase　Overjoyed.

例句 1　拿到了大学录取通知书，王峰～地跑回家。

Example 1　Having received the college admission notice, Wang Feng ran home, wild with joy.

例句 2　申奥成功的消息传到北京，人们～地涌到了大街上，欢呼

雀跃。

Example 2 When word came to Beijing that the city's Olympic bid had finally succeeded, people went cheering and jumping on the streets, wild with joy.

近 义 欣喜若狂

反 义 悲痛欲绝

焕然一新 huàn rán yī xīn

take on an entirely new look

释 义 形容呈现出一种崭新的面貌或比喻很有光彩，给人一种全新的感觉。焕然：有光彩的样子；一：全。

Paraphrase Look brand-new. Or a metaphor, shining and refreshing. "焕然": the state of being brilliant; "一": entirely.

例句 1 经过一个月的施工，这条堵塞的道路～。

Example 1 The project lasted about a month and eventually made the street take on an entirely new look.

例句 2 重新装修过的教学楼～。

Example 2 The completely refitted teaching building looks brand-new.

恍然大悟 huǎng rán dà wù

suddenly see the light

释 义 形容一下子明白过来。恍然：忽然醒悟的样子；悟：明白。

Paraphrase Suddenly realize what is the matter. "恍然": suddenly wake up to the truth; "悟": understand.

例句 1 我一直不知道为什么他忽然不理我了，看了他的留言，我才～。

Example 1 I had no idea why he suddenly became cold towards me until I saw the message he left. Only then did I realize what the matter was.

例句 2 我一直不明白这首古诗的含义，经过老师一番讲解，我才～。

Example 2 The theme of this ancient poet had never been clear to me until my teacher's interpretation suddenly made me see the light.

反 义 百思不解

回味无穷 huí wèi wú qióng

leave a strong aftertaste

释 义 比喻回想某一事物，越想越觉得有意思。回味：从回忆中体会到的意味或趣味；穷：尽。

Paraphrase A metaphor, call something to mind and ponder over it, finding it more and more enjoyable. "回味": implications or joy tasted in one's memory; "穷": end.

例句 1 这首诗歌意境优美，让人～。

Example 1 The mood of this poem is really enchanting and leaves a strong aftertaste.

例句 2 老董讲的那个故事，绘声绘色，令人～。

Example 2 The story that Lao Dong told was a vivid account with a strong aftertaste.

活灵活现 huó líng huó xiàn

vivid; lifelike

释 义 形容神情逼真，使人感觉好像亲眼看到一样。

Paraphrase (Of descriptions, memories, performances etc.) vivid as if real.

例句 1 《水浒传》中的人物都描写得性格各异，～。

Example 1 The characters in *All Men are Brothers* are vividly portrayed figures with colorful personalities.

例句 2 六小龄童把孙悟空的神态表现得～，人们都称他“美猴王”。

Example 2 Little Six-year-old portrayed the Monkey King so vividly as to earn a reputation as “the handsome Monkey King”.

近 义 栩栩如生

货真价实 huò zhēn jià shí

genuine goods at a fair price

释 义 货物不是冒牌的，价钱也是实在的。现在指实实在在，一点不假。

Paraphrase Genuine goods at a fair price. By extension, out-and-out.

例句 1 那个小店的商品～，所以生意很好。

Example 1 That store sells genuine goods at a fair price, so business there is very good.

例句 2 放心吧，我们这里绝对～。

Example 2 You can be rest assured that we sell you genuine goods at a fair price here.

J

急中生智　jí zhōng shēng zhì

come up with a plan in desperation; suddenly come up with a way out of a predicament

释 义　情急时猛然想出了好主意、好办法。智：智慧，办法。

Paraphrase　Show resourcefulness in an emergency. "智": resourcefulness, plan.

例句 1　见躲不过敌人的搜查，小王～，把微缩胶卷塞进了嘴里。

Example 1　Seeing that it was impossible to hide from the enemy during the search, Xiao Wang showed his resourcefulness in such an emergency by throwing the microfilm into his mouth.

例句 2　火势越来越猛，小张～，拿起一块蘸湿的毛巾捂着脸冲了出去。

Example 2　As the fire was burning more and more fiercely, Xiao Zhang suddenly come up with a way and rushed out while covering his face with a wet towel.

己所不欲，勿施于人　jǐ suǒ bù yù, wù shī yú rén

do not unto others as you would not have them do unto you

释 义　自己不愿意的，不要强加于别人。

Paraphrase　Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.

例句 1　圣人说"～"，你不愿意做的事情，怎么非让别人去做？

Example 1　Confucious said, "Do not unto others as you would not have them do unto you." How can you let others do something

that you yourself hate to do?

例句 2 你不是说"～"吗？你都不想去，就别逼他去了。

Example 2 Didn't you say that you do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire? Even you don't want to go, then don't force him to go.

典 故 孔子是中国古代有名的思想家。他非常强调"仁"，"仁"的含义很广，很多学生向他请教过"仁"的意义。一次，学生仲弓问他什么是"仁"，孔子回答说："自己不喜欢的事情，不要强加给别人。"

家徒四壁 jiā tú sì bì

having nothing but the bare wall in one's house

释 义 家里穷得只剩下墙了，形容家里一无所有。

Paraphrase Be utterly destitute, having nothing but the bare wall in one's house.

例句 1 刚结婚的时候，我们～，连床上的被子都是朋友送的。

Example 1 In those days when we got married, we were utterly destitute, having almost nothing but the bare walls in our house. Even the quilt was a gift from a friend.

例句 2 想当年，我们～，如今已经住上了别墅，开上了奔驰，真是今非昔比。

Example 2 In those years, we were utterly destitute, having nothing but the bare wall in our house, while we can now afford a villa and a Benz. There is simply no comparison between past and present!

价廉物美 jià lián wù měi

inexpensive but elegant

释 义 物品质量好，价格便宜。也作"物美价廉"。廉：便宜。

Paraphrase (Of a commodity) of good quality and inexpen-

sive. Also put as "物美价廉". "廉": cheap.

例句 1 超市里的商品总是～,很受大家欢迎。

Example 1 Goods in the supermarkets, usually cheap but good, have great appeal for everyone.

例句 2 中国产品～,在世界各地都很受欢迎。

Example 2 Products made in China, with their good quanlity and low prices, are popular everywhere in the world.

见利忘义 jiàn lì wàng yì

forget what is right at the sight of profit

释 义 看到有利可图就忘掉了道义。利:利益;义:道义。

Paraphrase Forget about morality and justice at the sight of profit. "利": profit; "义": morality and justice.

例句 1 金钱只能收买～的人。

Example 1 You could only buy those people who forget what is right at the sight of profit.

例句 2 法官办案必须严肃认真,不能马马虎虎,更不能～。

Example 2 A judge must handle a case seriously. He is not expected to handle it in a casual manner, much less forget what is right at the sight of profit.

见钱眼开 jiàn qián yǎn kāi

be wide-eyed at the sight of money

释 义 看到钱眼睛就睁大了。形容贪婪爱财。见:看见。

Paraphrase With one's eyes wide open at the sight of money-greedy. "见": see.

例句 1 他是个～的人,他的朋友就是钱。

Example 1 He is the kind of person who would be wide-eyed at the sight of money. His friend is money.

例句 2　他～，早把对朋友的承诺忘得一干二净了。

Example 2　The moment he saw the money, all the promises he had made to his friends immediately vanished into the air.

近 义　财迷心窍

见死不救　jiàn sǐ bù jiù

be impervious to other people's misfortunes and disasters

释 义　看到别人面临死亡威胁而不去援救。救：挽救，援助。

Paraphrase　Not try to save somebody who is in mortal danger. "救": save.

例句 1　看见这样的情景，谁也不会～。

Example 1　Who would be impervious to such misfortunes and disasters?

例句 2　我是医生，怎能～？

Example 2　As a doctor, how can I not try my best to save a person who is in mortal danger?

近 义　袖手旁观

反 义　见义勇为

将计就计　jiāng jì jiù jì

turn somebody's trick against himself; meet plot with plot; beat somebody at his own game

释 义　利用对方的计策，施展对策来对付对方。将：拿，用。

Paraphrase　Take countermeasures to cope with one's opponent by taking advantage of his own trick. "将": take, use.

例句 1　对于贩毒团伙狠毒的阴谋，我们只有～。

Example 1　To counter the narcotics mafia, we can only turn their vicious tricks against them.

例句 2 对方约我们见面，我们给他来个～。

Example 2 Our counterparts asked for an appointment with us, so let's meet plot with plot.

矫枉过正 jiǎo wǎng guò zhèng

exceed the proper limits in righting a wrong; overcorrect

释 义 矫正弯曲的东西超过了限度，又弯向另一方。比喻纠正事物的偏失、错误过了头，从而陷于另一种偏失、错误之中。矫：矫正；枉：弯曲。

Paraphrase In making straight a crooked thing, exceed the proper limit so that it bends towards another side. A metaphor, correct some error or fault beyond what is needed, especially when resulting in another error or fault. "矫": put right; "枉": curve.

例句 1 少吃动物脂肪对身体有好处，但你～，一点儿肉都不吃也不好。

Example 1 It is bad for your health to take in too much animal fat, but you may overcorrect the fault by simply not having any meat.

例句 2 ～的教育方法，不利于孩子树立正确观念。

Example 2 If you exceed the proper limits in righting a wrong of a child, that will not help him to acquire a correct outlook.

叫苦连天 jiào kǔ lián tiān

complain to high heaven

释 义 不住地叫苦。

Paraphrase Complain endlessly.

例句 1 听说考试时间要提前，大家～。

Example 1 Knowing that the time for the exam had been moved up, all of us began complaining bitterly.

例句 2 听到老师布置的作文题目，他～。

Example 2 On hearing the topic of the essay set by the teacher, he couldn't help complaining bitterly.

近 义 叫苦不迭

反 义 兴高采烈

教学相长 jiào xué xiāng zhǎng

teaching benefits teacher and student alike

释 义 教和学双方相辅相成，互相促进。后多指老师和学生之间互相促进，共同提高。

Paraphrase Teaching and learning complement and promote each other. Mostly, in later use, the teacher and the students help each other forward.

例句 1 中国有个成语叫～，在给大家讲课的同时我也学到了很多东西。

Example 1 As the Chinese saying goes, teaching benefits teacher and student alike. While giving you lessons, I have also learned a lot.

例句 2 欢迎大家畅谈自己的见解，～嘛。

Example 2 I would welcome any of your advice or suggestions with open arms, for no doubt teaching benefits teachers as well as students.

皆大欢喜 jiē dà huān xǐ

to the satisfaction of all

释 义 大家都欢喜。皆：都。

Paraphrase Everybody is happy. "皆": all.

例句 1 爱画画的小明参加了美术组，爱唱歌的小方参加了合唱

团，真是～。

Example 1 Xiaoming likes painting and joined the art group, while Xiaofang likes singing and joined the choir. Everybody is happy.

例句 2 我喜欢这个电视剧～的结局。

Example 2 I like the ending of this TV soap in which everybody end up happy.

接二连三 jiē èr lián sān

in quick succession

释 义 一个接着一个，相继不断。接：接着。

Paraphrase One after another, in succession. "接": follow.

例句 1 比赛结果宣布以后，朋友们～地来道喜。

Example 1 After the final result of the game had been announced, his friends came one after another to give their congratulations.

例句 2 最近，～地发生了一些怪事。

Example 2 Recently, weird things took place in succession.

近 义 接连不断

解铃还需系铃人 jiě líng hái xū jì líng rén

let him who tied the bell on the tiger take it off

释 义 要把铃铛解开，最好还是要当初系铃铛的那个人来。比喻由谁引起的问题，仍需要由谁去解决。也作"解铃系铃"。

Paraphrase If you want to untie the bell, you'd better find the person who tied it in the first place. A metaphor, it requires the person who is the cause of a problem to solve it. Also put as "解铃系铃".

例句 1 我看～，还是让他女朋友来陪他吧。

Example 1 As I see it, you should let the one who tied the bell

on the tiger take it off. So let his girl friend come over and keep him company.

例句 2 ～,想要过老李这关只有叫老张去。

Example 2 No doubt you should let him who tied the bell on the tiger take the bell off. Only Lao Zhang can deal with Lao Li this barrier.

典 故 金陵(今南京市)清凉山有个名叫泰钦的和尚,聪明过人。一天,法眼和尚问众僧:"老虎脖子上系的铃铛,谁能解得下来?"众僧无一人能答。恰好泰钦从旁边经过,他不假思索地回答:"谁把那个铃铛系上去的,谁就能把它解下来。"

斤斤计较 jīn jīn jì jiào

haggle over every ounce; be calculating

释 义 形容过分计较小利或琐细小事。斤斤:明察的样子,指注意小的利害。

Paraphrase Care too much for petty gains or trivial matters. "斤斤": scrutinizing — pay much attention to small gains and losses.

例句 1 他总是～,和他这样的人打交道真费神。

Example 1 He is always calculating, a real nasty guy to deal with.

例句 2 人家都道歉了,你就不要再～了。

Example 2 Now that he has apologized, don't fuss about it any more.

近 义 锱铢必较

反 义 宽宏大量

今非昔比 jīn fēi xī bǐ

no comparison between past and present

释 义 现在不能和过去比。比喻变化很大。

Paraphrase The past cannot be compared with the present—enormous changes.

例句 1 北京的变化真快，上次我来时这里还只有一排低矮的平房，现在都高楼林立了，真是～。

Example 1 Beijing has undergone massive changes. Last time I came here, there was only a row of bungalows but now it's already a forest of tall buildings, simply no comparison between past and present!

例句 2 中国的交通状况～，高速公路总里程已位居世界第二。

Example 2 In terms of China's traffic conditions, the past cannot be compared with the present. Its highway mileage now ranks second in the world.

锦上添花 jǐn shàng tiān huā

add flowers to the brocade

释 义 在织锦上绣花。比喻美上加美，好上加好。锦：织锦；添：增添。

Paraphrase A metaphor, make what is beautiful even more beautiful and what is good still better. "锦": brocade; "添": add.

例句 1 经过他一番处理，这幅画更加～。

Example 1 He treated the painting simply in a way that resembles adding flowers to the brocade.

例句 2 有两种人：一种喜欢雪中送炭，一种喜欢～。你属于哪一种？

Example 2 There are two kinds of people—one would send charcoal in snowy weather, the other add flowers to the brocade—of which kind are you?

反 义 雪上加霜

尽力而为 jìn lì ér wéi

do everything in one's power

释 义 指竭尽全力去做。尽：竭尽；力：力量；为：做。

Paraphrase Do all one can. "尽": exhaust; "力": power; "为": do.

例句 1 谢谢你对我的信任，我一定～。

Example 1 Thanks for your confidence in me, I shall certainly do my best.

例句 2 这件事我只能～了。结果怎么样，现在还很难预测。

Example 2 I can only do all I can. It's hard to foretell now what my efforts will bring.

近 义 尽心竭力

反 义 敷衍了事

尽善尽美 jìn shàn jìn měi

the acme of perfection

释 义 形容事物达到完美无缺的境地。善：好；美：完美。

Paraphrase (Of something) reach the acme of perfection, flawless. "善": fine; "美": perfect.

例句 1 你尽管相信他，他每件事都要求自己做得～。

Example 1 You can completely trust him, for he demands that everything he does be the acme of perfection.

例句 2 我不求～，只求尽力而为。

Example 2 I don't seek the acme of perfection. I can only do my best.

近 义 十全十美

反 义 一无是处

近水楼台 jìn shuǐ lóu tái

waterside pavilion

释 义 原句是："近水楼台先得月"。原指靠近水面的楼台先见到月光。比喻由于位置优越而首先获得好处。

Paraphrase The original version is as follows："近水楼台先得月". Originally, a waterside pavilion gets to the moon first. A metaphor, first to gain special advantages, because of one's favorable position.

例句 1 因为在图书馆工作，～，小力阅读了大量外文期刊。

Example 1 By working in the library, waterside Xiao Li pavilion is available to enabling him to read plenty foreign periodicals.

例句 2 要说听戏，小刘那可是～，她家就在长安戏院旁边。

Example 2 Talking about going to the opera, Xiao Liu really enjoys a waterside pavilion, for she lives close to Chang'an Opera.

近朱者赤，近墨者黑 jìn zhū zhě chì, jìn mò zhě hēi

He who stays near vermilion gets stained red, and he who stays near ink gets stained black—one takes on the color of one's company.

释 义 靠近朱砂容易变红，靠近墨容易变黑。比喻客观环境对人的成长变化有很大影响。朱：朱砂。

Paraphrase A metaphor, objective conditions greatly influence a person's growth. "朱": vermilion.

例句 1 ～，我们要鼓励孩子多与好学上进的朋友交往。

Example 1 He who stays near vermilion gets stained red, and he who stays near ink gets stained black. Therefore we should encourage our children to befriend those who are fond of learning and eager to make progress.

例句 2 孟母三迁的故事也说明了～的道理。

Example 2 The story of the mother of Mencius who moved

house three times illustrates the truth that a person takes on the color of his company.

惊弓之鸟 jīng gōng zhī niǎo

a bird that starts at the mere twang of a bow-string—a badly frightened person

释 义 受过弓箭惊吓的鸟。比喻经历过灾难、遇事心有余悸的人。惊：惊慌。

Paraphrase A bird badly frightened by arrows. A metaphor, someone who has gone through sufferings and has a lingering fear whenever in danger. “惊”：startled.

例句 1 逃犯好比～，一看见警车就胆战心惊。

Example 1 Like a bird that starts at the mere twang of a bow-string, the escaped convict would be greatly scared at the mere sight of a police wagon.

例句 2 通缉令发布后，罪犯像～一般，四处逃窜。

Example 2 With the issue of the wanted circular, criminals fled in all directions like birds that start at the mere twang of a bow-string.

反 义 镇定自若

典 故 善射者更羸(léi)和魏王同在高台下，这时有一只大雁飞过。更羸只虚拨了一下弓弦，雁就掉了下来。魏王问原因，更羸说，那只雁飞得很慢，叫声凄惨，说明是一只受伤的孤雁。由于伤还没好，又很惊恐，所以一听到弓声便使劲高飞，一用力，伤口破裂，便掉了下来。

惊惶失措 jīng huáng shī cuò

frightened out of one’s wits; seized with panic

释 义 形容手忙脚乱，失去常态，不知如何是好。惊惶：惶恐，

不知所措；失措：举止失去常态。

Paraphrase Panic-stricken, lose control of oneself, and be at a loss as to what to do. “惊惶”: terrified and be at one’s wits’ end; “失措”: lose one’s composure.

例句 1 无论遇到什么紧急情况，千万不要～。

Example 1 Never lose your composure an emergency.

例句 2 发生火灾时一定要冷静，切勿～。

Example 2 When fire breaks out, you are to maintain your composure and never be frightened out of your wits.

近 义 手足无措

反 义 镇定自若

精打细算 jīng dǎ xì suàn

careful calculation and strict budgeting

释 义 使用人力物力时计算精细，不浪费。打：打算。

Paraphrase Shrewd and careful in the use of manpower and material resources; sparing. “打”: plan.

例句 1 过日子就是要～，大手大脚怎么行？

Example 1 We have to live with careful calculation and strict budgeting and simply can’t afford to be free with our money.

例句 2 王方是个～的人，你跟他一起做计划，一定会学到很多。

Example 2 Wang Fang is very capable of careful calculation and strict budgeting. Doing the project with him, you can certainly learn a lot.

精益求精 jīng yì qiú jīng

constantly improve something

释 义 好了还要求更好。精：完美。

Paraphrase Want something to be even better. "精": perfect.

例句 1 他是个～的人，交给他办的事你尽管放心。

Example 1 He is a person who keeps improving things, so you can rest assure that everything you entrust to him will be all right.

例句 2 做什么事都要～，不能马马虎虎。

Example 2 Whatever you do, you should be constantly perfecting it rather than deal with it idly.

近 义 好上加好

反 义 敷衍了事

井底之蛙 jǐng dǐ zhī wā

a frog in the well

释 义 井底下的青蛙只能看见很小的一片天。比喻见识浅陋的人。蛙：青蛙；井底：形容很小的天地。

Paraphrase A frog in the well can only see little of the sky. A metaphor, a person with a very limited outlook. "蛙": frog; "井底": limited space.

例句 1 不读书、不学知识，就只能当～。

Example 1 Without reading and learning, a person will just be a frog in the well.

例句 2 我读了老师推荐的这些书以后，才知道自己不过是～。

Example 2 Only after reading the books my teacher recommended did I realise that I am just a frog in the well.

近 义 一孔之见

反 义 见多识广

井井有条　jǐng jǐng yǒu tiáo

methodical; orderly

释 义　形容整齐不乱，有条有理。井井：有条理。

Paraphrase　Neat and tidy, in perfect order. "井井": methodical.

例句 1　老王经验丰富，每件事都安排得～。

Example 1　Lao Wang is very experienced and put everything in perfect order.

例句 2　仓库里的各种救灾物资摆放得～。

Example 2　All sorts of disaster relief goods and materials are placed in a methodical way in the warehouse.

敬而远之　jìng ér yuǎn zhī

stay at a respectful distance from somebody

释 义　表面上尊敬对方，实际上是不能或不愿与之亲近，所以远远地离开。敬：尊敬；远：远离。

Paraphrase　Appear to be respectful to somebody while actually unable or unwilling to have a close relationship with him and therefore stay away from him. "敬": respect; "远": stay away from.

例句 1　对这种夸夸其谈的人，我只能～。

Example 1　I have to stay at a respectful distance from those who indulges in exaggeration.

例句 2　老李学问很好，但一向高傲，我们都对他～。

Example 2　Lao Li is a man of great knowledge, but is always supercilious. We have to stay at a respectful distance from him.

反 义　亲密无间

九牛一毛　jiǔ niú yī máo

a single hair out of nine ox hides—a drop in the ocean

释 义 九头牛身上失掉一根毛，微不足道。比喻众多数量中的一点点，指极少，非常轻微。

Paraphrase A single hair falling off the bodies of nine oxen; negligible. A metaphor, a tiny amount out of masses of something, very little or few, insignificant.

例句 1 三十万日元对他这样一个跨国公司的老板来说是～。

Example 1 300,000 yen is simply a single hair out of nine ox hides for the boss of a multinational like him.

例句 2 我们在课堂上接触到的中国古典文化只是～而已。

Example 2 What we have been exposed to in Chinese classical culture class is just a single hair out of nine ox hides.

举棋不定 jǔ qí bù dìng

hesitate about what move to make; vacillate; shilly-shally

释 义 拿起棋子不能决定怎样下。比喻做事犹豫不决。举：拿起。

Paraphrase A chessman, unable to make up one's mind about what move to make. A metaphor, be in two minds about something. "举": take.

例句 1 这件事究竟是答应还是拒绝，他一直～。

Example 1 He has been in two minds about whether to promise to do it.

例句 2 你不要再～了，她可是天下难找的好帮手。

Example 2 Don't shilly-shally any longer. It's hard to find in the world such a good helper like her.

近 义 犹豫不决

反 义 当机立断

举一反三 jǔ yī fǎn sān

draw inferences about other cases from one instance

释 义 举出一件事，就可以触类旁通，类推出许多同类事理来。反：类推，推论。

Paraphrase Grasp a typical example and you will grasp the whole category or draw inferences about other cases. "反": analogize, infer.

例句 1 教师应善于启发学生，培养他们的逻辑思维能力，让他们学会～。

Example 1 A teacher should be adept at inspiring his students to cultivate their ability to think logically and, consequently, help them learn to draw inferences about other cases from one instance.

例句 2 学生能通过例题～，才说明他们真正理解了相关问题。

Example 2 Only when the students are finally able to draw inferences about other cases from the illustrative problem can we say that they have achieved a real understanding of the relevant problems.

近 义 触类旁通

K

开门见山　kāi mén jiàn shān

open the door and immediately see the mountain

释 义　直截了当，不转弯抹角，比喻说话或写文章一开头就直入正题。

Paraphrase　A metaphor, come straight to the point at the beginning of one's speech or article.

例句 1　老王～，说明了来意。

Example 1　Lao Wang came straight to the point by making clear what he had come for.

例句 2　他不喜欢和别人东拉西扯，所以你最好～表明你的看法。

Example 2　He doesn't like one to drag in irrelevant matters, so you'd better come straight to the point by making clear your viewpoint.

近 义　直截了当

反 义　拐弯抹角

开门揖盗　kāi mén yī dào

open the door to robbers

释 义　打开门请强盗进来。比喻引进坏人，招来祸患。

Paraphrase　A metaphor, invite disaster by letting in evildoers.

例句 1　他一贯是看见什么就想要什么，你请他参观咱们的陈列室，岂不是～吗？

Example 1　He would ask for anything he laid his eyes upon.

You will simply open the door to a robber if you have invited him to visit our showroom.

例句 2 这种小广告上的搬家公司很不正规，你随便让他们登门，不是～吗？

Example 2 The removers promoted by those adverts are rather dubious. You will probably open the door to robbers if you are so careless as to ask them to come.

近 义 引狼入室

侃侃而谈 kǎn kǎn ér tán

speak with fervour and assurance

释 义 理直气壮，从容不迫地谈。侃侃：说话从容不迫的样子。

Paraphrase Speak with assurance and composure. “侃侃”：a state of speaking in a calm and unhurried way.

例句 1 周老师是研究《红楼梦》的专家，每次上课听他～，同学们都非常专注。

Example 1 Mr. Zhou is an expert in the studies of *A Dream of the Red Mansions*. Every time when he spoke with assurance and composure in his lectures, all the students would be very attentive.

例句 2 他的口才很好，走到哪里都能～。

Example 2 He is an eloquent speaker and speaks wherever he goes with fervour and assurance.

近 义 娓娓而谈

反 义 吞吞吐吐　张口结舌

刻不容缓 kè bù róng huǎn

brook no delay; demand immediate attention

释 义 一刻也不能耽搁。形容形势紧迫。缓：缓慢，拖延。

Paraphrase Not allow or accept a moment's delay. Be of great urgency. "缓": sluggishness, delay.

例句 1 水灾发生后，灾区的救援问题～。

Example 1 The issue of flood relief for those disaster areas demands immediate attention.

例句 2 这个问题必须马上开会讨论，～。

Example 2 This issue demands immediate attention and must be addressed in a meeting now.

近 义 千钧一发 迫在眉睫

刻骨铭心 kè gǔ míng xīn

be engraved on one's bones and heart—be remembered with deep gratitude

释 义 铭刻在心灵深处。形容记忆深刻，永远忘不了。铭：在石头或器物上刻字。

Paraphrase Be engraved somewhere in the depths of one's heart. Be clearly remembered and never forgotten. "铭": carve characters on a slabstone or utensil.

例句 1 这本小说描写了他俩～的爱情。

Example 1 This novel depicts their fervent love.

例句 2 他对我的救命之恩，我～。

Example 2 He saved my life, I will remember this great kindness forever with deep gratitude.

反 义 过眼云烟

口是心非 kǒu shì xīn fēi

say one thing and mean another

释 义 嘴里说的是一套，心里想的又是一套。指心口不一致。

Paraphrase Not mean what one says. Not say what one thinks.

例句 1 你怎么能相信他的话？他一贯～。

Example 1 How can you believe him? He always says one thing and means another.

例句 2 你嘴上说不爱他，可天天想看见他，这不是～吗？

Example 2 Although you say that you don't love him, you want to see him every day. Why say one thing and mean another?

近 义 心口不一

反 义 表里如一

哭笑不得 kū xiào bù dé

find something both funny and annoying

释 义 哭也不合适，笑也不合适。形容处境尴尬，左右为难。

Paraphrase It is not appropriate for one either to cry or to laugh—an embarrassing situation or an awkward predicament.

例句 1 他的回答使我～。

Example 1 At his reply, I don't know whether to laugh or to cry.

例句 2 他的这番表演，让在场的人～。

Example 2 He put on a show which everyone present found both funny and annoying.

近 义 啼笑皆非

苦口婆心 kǔ kǒu pó xīn

(admonish) earnestly and maternally

释 义 形容恳切耐心地再三劝告。婆心：像老婆婆一样仁慈的心肠。

Paraphrase Admonish earnestly and patiently again and again. "婆心": benevolent characteristic of an old woman.

例句 1 我～地说了多少次，他就是不理解。

Example 1 I talked with him earnestly and maternally many times, but he simply couldn't understand.

例句 2 老师～地说明了作弊的害处，可总是有人听不进去。

Example 2 The teacher had earnestly and maternally stated the harmfulness of cheating. However, there is always someone who wouldn't listen.

近 义 语重心长

反 义 冷言冷语

L

来龙去脉 lái lóng qù mài

origin and development; the entire process; the whole story from beginning to end

释 义 迷信风水的人把山势比做龙，把山脉的起伏绵延叫做龙脉，认为山势从头到尾都像血脉似的连贯着。现用以比喻一件事情的前因后果。脉：这里指山势绵延。

Paraphrase Those who believe in feng-shui liken the configuration of a mountain to a dragon, call the rise and fall of a mountain range "dragon vein", and think that a mountain range is inherently linked up all through. Now a metaphor, the entire process of a matter. "脉": the extending or stretching of the configuration of a mountain range.

例句 1 请把这件事的～写一遍。

Example 1 Please put the whole story from beginning to end in writing.

例句 2 要想知道这件事的～，你应该去问老张。

Example 2 You should ask Lao Zhang for the whole story from beginning to end.

近 义 前因后果

来日方长 lái rì fāng cháng

there will be ample time

释 义 未来的日子还很长。表示事情还大有可为，或者劝人先不必急于做某事。来日：未来的日子，将来；方：正。

Paraphrase Have plenty of time ahead. By extension, something still has bright prospects, or a suggestion to somebody not to be impatient when doing something. “来日”: the days ahead, future; “方”: just.

例句 1 别难过,~,咱们后会有期。

Example 1 Don't be sad, for there will be ample time. We'll meet again some day.

例句 2 这次比赛输了没什么,~,只要总结经验,经过一年的训练,我们一定会成功。

Example 2 It doesn't matter that we lost this game, for there is plenty of time, as long as we sum up our experiences, we shall succeed after a year's training.

反义 指日可待

来之不易 lái zhī bù yì

not come by easily; be the result of toil

释义 得来很不容易。易:容易。

Paraphrase Hard-earned. “易”: easily.

例句 1 我的毕业证书~,现在弄丢了,怎么能不伤心?

Example 1 My diploma has not come by easily, now that I've lost it, how can I not be sad?

例句 2 我们的成绩~,万不可半途而废。

Example 2 Our accomplishment is the result of toil and should by no means be given up halfway.

近义 谈何容易

反义 轻而易举　不费吹灰之力

滥竽充数 làn yú chōng shù

pass oneself off as one of the players in an ensemble

释 义 指不会吹竽的人混在乐队里凑数。现比喻没有真本领的人夹在能人里充数，也比喻用次货冒充好货。有时也用做自谦之词。滥：不切实际；竽：古代簧管乐器，形状像笙，但比笙大；充数：凑数。

Paraphrase Be there just to make up the number. Now a metaphor, an incompetent person mix with able persons or pass some inferior goods off as goods of high quality. Sometimes used as self-deprecating remarks as a gesture of being humble. "滥": indiscriminate; "竽": an ancient reed instrument, of a shape similar to that of a sheng(a reed pipe wind instrument) but bigger than the latter; "充数": make up the number.

例句 1 我五音不全，参加合唱队只能～。

Example 1 I can't even sing the five notes clearly, so joining the choir, I'll simply be making up the number.

例句 2 我不想～，既然争取到了参加比赛的机会，就一定好好准备。

Example 2 I don't want simply to make up the number. Since I have got this opportunity to participate in the contest, I shall certainly make good preparations.

近 义 鱼目混珠

典 故 战国时，齐宣王喜欢听人吹竽，而且喜欢听三百人一起吹。有个南郭处士请求为齐宣王吹竽，宣王十分高兴，同意他加入了这个庞大的乐队。宣王死后，湣王即位。新君王不喜欢听合奏，偏偏喜欢听一个人一个人吹。这下子南郭处士慌了，赶紧溜走。原来他根本不会吹竽，只是为了混口饭吃，在乐队里充数而已。

狼狈不堪 láng bèi bù kān

in a sorry plight; in sore straits

释 义 形容处境极其困难、窘迫。狼狈：形容困顿、窘迫的样子；不堪：不能忍受，表示程度深。

Paraphrase In an extremely awkward position. “狼狈”: in a sorry plight; “不堪”: unbearably, extremely.

例句 1 被雨淋了个透,又摔了一跤,我真是～。

Example 1 Wet through in the rain and having had a fall, I found myself in a sorry plight.

例句 2 小偷被警察追得,～,无处可逃。

Example 2 Nowhere to hide with the police in hot pursuit, the thief was put in in a sorry plight.

狼吞虎咽 láng tūn hǔ yàn

wolf down; gobble up

释 义 像狼、虎吞咽食物一样,形容吃东西又猛又急。

Paraphrase To eat something very greedily and quickly as a wolf or tiger swallows something.

例句 1 吃饭要细嚼慢咽,别～的,那样不利于消化。

Example 1 Chew carefully and swallow slowly. Don't wolfing down your food, it's bad for digestion.

例句 2 看着小义～的吃相,我忍不住笑了。

Example 2 I couldn't help laughing, seeing the way Xiaoyi wolfed down his meal.

反 义 细嚼慢咽

劳苦功高 láo kǔ gōng gāo

have worked hard and performed a valuable service

释 义 出了极大的力气,立下了很大的功劳。功:功劳。

Paraphrase Have done a lot and made huge contribution. “功”: meritorious service.

例句 1 这次行动,谁最～?

Example 1 Who made the greatest contribution to this operation?

例句 2 这次的胜利老王～，让我们敬他一杯！

Example 2 Lao Wang contributed greatly to our success. Let's toast in his him!

近 义 功德无量

反 义 徒劳无益 徒劳无功

劳民伤财 láo mín shāng cái

exhaust the people and drain the treasury

释 义 指滥用人力、物力，造成很大的浪费。劳：劳累；伤：伤耗。

Paraphrase Waste money and manpower. "劳": tire; "伤": consume.

例句 1 希望政府不要做～的事。

Example 1 I hope that the government won't do anything that could exhaust the people and drain the treasury.

例句 2 花这么多钱造一座宫殿，真是～！

Example 2 So much money were spent building a single palace. What a waste of money and manpower!

劳逸结合 láo yì jié hé

alternate work with rest and recreation

释 义 工作和休息相结合。意指既需要积极工作，又要适当休息。逸：休息。

Paraphrase Strike a proper balance between work and rest. "逸": repose.

例句 1 你最近太辛苦了，要～啊。

Example 1 You have worked too hard recently. Don't forget to alternate work with rest and recreation.

例句 2 无论工作还是学习，都应该注意～。

Example 2 Care must be taken in your work or studies to strike a proper balance between work and rest.

老生常谈 lǎo shēng cháng tán

platitude; truism

释 义 老书生经常谈论的事物或观点。指陈腐过时的言论或听惯了的老话。老生：老书生。

Paraphrase Things or views those middle-aged intellectuals frequently talk about. A collection of cliches and truisms. "老生": a middle-aged intellectual.

例句 1 咱们不要～，还是谈点儿新的话题吧。

Example 1 Let's rid ourselves of those platitudes and find some fresh topics.

例句 2 这篇文章又是～，根本就没有什么新意。

Example 2 This article is simply another collection of cliches and truisms with no new conceptions.

近 义 老调重弹

反 义 新见迭出

老态龙钟 lǎo tài lóng zhōng

senile; doddering

释 义 形容人年老体弱、行动迟缓、不灵活的样子。龙钟：行动不灵便。

Paraphrase The state of being old and weak, and having trouble moving about. "龙钟": have trouble moving about.

例句 1 几年没有回家，父亲看起来有些～了，我心里很不是滋味。

Example 1 Haven't been home for only a few years and father already turned a bit senile. I was much upset.

例句 2 由于多年病痛的折磨，五十多岁的钱老师已经显得有点儿～了。

Example 2 Tortured for years by his lingering illness, Mr. Qian already looks a little senile in his fifties.

反 义 鹤发童颜

乐不思蜀 lè bù sī shǔ

so happy as to forget home and duty

释 义 快乐得不想念蜀国了。比喻乐而忘返或乐而忘本。蜀：三国时国名，在今四川省一带。

Paraphrase Too happy to miss the State of Shu any more. A metaphor, indulge in pleasures and forget one's home or principal commitments. "蜀": a state in the Three Kingdoms period, comprising the present-day Sichuan area.

例句 1 刚在桂林呆了几天，我便有一种～的感觉了。

Example 1 Simply a few days' sojourn in Guilin has made me happy enough to forget home and duty.

例句 2 自从认识了小红，麦克也不想着回国了，每天和小红在一起，真是～了。

Example 2 Since he got to know Xiaohong, Mike has rid himself of any homesickness and become so happy in her company as to forget home and duty.

近 义 乐而忘返

反 义 归心似箭

典 故 蜀国后主刘禅（刘备的儿子）投降司马昭后，蜀国灭亡。

司马昭把刘禅迁到了魏国的都城洛阳居住，封他为“安乐公”。有一天，司马昭设宴招待刘禅，并请乐伎表演蜀地的歌舞。与刘禅一起到洛阳的蜀国旧臣们听了，都很伤感，只有刘禅看得手舞足蹈，十分高兴。司马昭问他：“颇思蜀否(你很想念蜀国吧)?”刘禅回答说：“此间乐，不思蜀(我在这里很开心，一点儿也不想蜀国了)。”

乐极生悲 lè jí shēng bēi

extreme joy begets sorrow

释 义 高兴得过了头，转而招致悲伤的事。极：极点；悲：悲伤。

Paraphrase Joy, exceeding the proper limit, turns into sorrow. “极”: extreme; “悲”: sorrow.

例句 1 小方中了大奖后开车去兜风，结果出了车祸，真是～。

Example 1 After winning a big prize in a lottery, Xiaofang went for a spin that resulted in an accident. Extreme joy really begets sorrow.

例句 2 昨天的庆祝会上他非要站在桌子上跳舞，结果～，把手摔伤了。

Example 2 At the celebration yesterday, he insisted on dancing on the table, eventually he suffered a fall and injured his hands.

冷嘲热讽 lěng cháo rè fěng

with freezing irony and burning satire

释 义 形容对人嘲笑和讽刺。冷嘲：冷言冷语，尖锐刻薄的风凉话；热讽：指辛辣难忍的讽刺话。

Paraphrase Ridicule and satire aimed at a person. “冷嘲”: ironical remarks, mean and pointed words; “热讽”: pungent sarcasm.

例句 1 别～了，有本事你就拿出可行的方案来。

Example 1 No more biting sarcasm! You just put forward a practicable plan to show us your prowess.

例句 2 如果你觉得自己对就坚持下去，不要在乎他们的～。

Example 2 Simply go on if you still believe in yourself. Don't care about their mean and pointed remarks.

近 义 冷言冷语

礼尚往来 lǐ shàng wǎng lái

courtesy demands reciprocity; give as good as one gets

释 义 在礼节上应注重有来有往。现在也指针对对方的行为采取相应的措施。礼：礼节；尚：注重。

Paraphrase Courtesy demands a mutual or cooperative interchange of favors. Now, also, pay a man back in his coins. "礼": formality; "尚": require.

例句 1 中国人十分注重～。

Example 1 The Chinese people appreciate a cooperative interchange of courtesies.

例句 2 ～是人之常情，你不必推辞。

Example 2 Courtesy demands reciprocity. It's only what is natural and normal, so you don't have to decline.

反 义 来而不往

力所能及 lì suǒ néng jí

within one's power

释 义 自己的力量所能达到的。及：达到，做得到。

Paraphrase All that one can do. "及": reach, be able to accomplish.

例句 1 别看我是个残疾人，我还是想做一些～的事。

Example 1 Though a handicapped person, I'm eager to do something in my power.

例句 2 他现在年纪大了，应该为他安排一些～的体育活动。

Example 2 He is getting old now and we should arrange for him to do some physical exercises within his power.

恋恋不舍 liàn liàn bù shě

be reluctant to part

释义 形容很留恋，舍不得离开。恋恋：留恋的样子；舍：舍弃。

Paraphrase Be reluctant to leave, can't bear to part. "恋恋": the state of feeling reluctant to leave; "舍": abandon.

例句 1 看到他俩～的样子，在场的人都十分羡慕。

Example 1 Seeing them so reluctant to part from each other, everyone present felt a great sense of envy.

例句 2 小狗在我们家快活地生活了一个月，送它走时大家都有些～。

Example 2 The puppy stayed happily in our house for a month and all of us hated to see it go when it has to leave.

良师益友 liáng shī yì yǒu

a good friend as well as a good teacher

释义 给人以教益和帮助的好老师、好朋友。

Paraphrase Good teachers and good friends that offer enlightenment and help.

例句 1 我的中学老师是我的～，我们至今还保持着联系。

Example 1 My middle school teacher is a good friend of mine as well as a good teacher, we still keep in touch now.

例句 2 《现代汉语词典》是我们留学生学习汉语的～。

Example 2 *Modern Chinese Dictionary* is a good teacher and a good friend for us foreign students who are learning Chinese.

两全其美 liǎng quán qí měi

satisfy rival claims

释 义 做一件事情，照顾到两个方面，使两方面都得到好处，感到满意。

Paraphrase Consider the situation as a whole and make allowances for rival claims at the same time so as to benefit and satisfy them both.

例句 1 你还是开车去吧，这样既节省时间，还能接孩子，～。

Example 1 You'd better drive there, this way you'll save time and you can also pick up your child.

例句 2 搬到海淀区后，我们上班方便了，孩子上学近了，～，全家都高兴。

Example 2 Since we moved to Haidian, going to work is more convenient and the children are closer to school, much to the satisfaction of the entire family.

量力而行 liàng lì ér xíng

do what one is capable of

释 义 衡量自己的能力或力量，然后去做事。量：估计，衡量；行：做事。

Paraphrase Weigh up one's own capability and power and then make a decision to do something. "量": assess, evaluate; "行": act.

例句 1 凡事要～，不能打肿脸充胖子。

Example 1 You can only do what you are capable of, don't beat yourself up to be a bigger person.

例句 2 师傅总是告诫小涛，练功时一定要～，不能一口吃个胖子。

Example 2 Xiaotao's master always cautions him to do what he is capable of and not to expect to get fat in one mouthful.

了如指掌 liǎo rú zhǐ zhǎng

know something like the back of one's hand

释 义 对事物的了解非常清楚，好像指着手掌给人看一样。“了”不读“le”。

Paraphrase Know something exactly, as if showing one's own palm to a person. “了” is not pronounced “le”.

例句 1 刘方是个象棋通，对各种棋谱～。

Example 1 Liu Fang is an old chess hand with all sorts of chess manuals at his fingertips.

例句 2 工程师们对这座大厦的情况～。

Example 2 Those engineers know the building like the palms (back) of their hands.

临时抱佛脚 lín shí bào fó jiǎo

embrace Buddha's feet in one's hour of need—make a frantic last-minute effort; seek help at the last moment

释 义 原来比喻平时没有联系，临时慌忙恳求，后来多指平时没有准备，临时慌忙应付。

Paraphrase Originally, a metaphor, never keep in contact with someone when all is well but make a flurried request when in distress. In later use, cope with an emergency, flustered and embarrassed, for lack of preparations normally.

例句 1 你早干什么去了！这会儿～，晚了。

Example 1 What on earth are you doing before? It's already too late for you to embrace Buddha's feet.

例句 2 明天就要考试了，你今天才想起来请教老师，真是～。

Example 2 You are about to have the exam tomorrow and simply remembered to ask your teacher now. You are really embracing Buddha's feet at the last moment.

典 故 古时候，在中国云南的南边有一个国家，官民都崇尚佛教。有一个人犯了死罪，害怕被处死，见捉拿他的人赶来了，就逃到寺庙里去抱住佛像的脚表示悔过。这样，官府就赦免了他的罪过。后来，人们就这样议论道："闲时不烧香，急来抱佛脚。"

临阵磨枪 lín zhèn mó qiāng

sharpen one's spear just before going into battle

释 义 临到快要上阵打仗了才去磨刀枪。比喻事到临头才匆忙做准备。

Paraphrase A metaphor, start to prepare hurriedly at the last moment.

例句 1 这几天一直忙着准备论文，后天就要考试了，看来只能～了。

Example 1 I have been busy preparing my paper recently, yet have an exam the day after tomorrow. It looks like this time I will have to sharpen one's spear just before going into battle.

例句 2 这次面试是考查综合素质，你现在～没什么用。

Example 2 This interview is meant to review a person's character comprehensively. It's no use sharpening your spear just before going into battle.

流连忘返 liú lián wàng fǎn

linger on with no thought of leaving; cannot tear oneself away

释 义 形容留恋景物或事物而不愿离去。流连：留恋不止；返：离去。

Paraphrase Enjoy the scenery or fun too much to be willing to leave. "流连": be reluctant to leave; "返": leave.

例句 1 美丽的校园，让参观者～。

Example 1 The beautiful campus made the visitors unable to tear themselves away.

例句 2 江西婺源山清水秀、古树参天，让游客～。

Example 2 The picturesque scenery and those towering old trees in Wuyuan, Jiangxi Province, always make tourists linger on with no thought of leaving.

落井下石 luò jǐng xià shí

drop stones on someone who has fallen into a well

释 义 见人落进井里，不但不搭救，反而向井里扔石头。比喻乘人之危，加以打击陷害。落：掉落。

Paraphrase Seeing a man fall into a well, instead of offering some help, drop stones in. A metaphor, hit a person when he is down.

例句 1 他现在最需要帮助，我们不能～。

Example 1 He is in his hour of need, we can't drop stones on someone who has fallen into a well.

例句 2 ～的事我向来不干。

Example 2 I'm not the sort of person who would drop stones on someone who has fallen into a well.

近 义 乘人之危

反 义 雪中送炭

落落大方 luò luò dà fāng

natural and at ease

释 义 形容人举止自然不拘谨。落落：潇洒端庄的样子。

Paraphrase (Of a person) bear oneself naturally, instead of being reserved and withdrawn. "落落": (of a person's appearance, demeanour, carriage, etc) natural and unrestrained, dignified.

例句 1 参加选美的小姐个个～，尽显风姿。

Example 1 Every girl in the beauty contest bears herself naturally with her beauty shown to the best advantage.

例句 2 小芳从小就常常上台主持节目，向来都是～的，所以你不用担心。

Example 2 Xiaofang began to host programmes frequently since childhood, and has always been natural and at ease. So you don't have to worry.

反 义 扭扭捏捏

M

马不停蹄 mǎ bù tíng tí

a horse galloping—without stopping

释 义 比喻一刻不停地持续向前。停：停歇。

Paraphrase Keep moving ahead. “停”：rest.

例句 1 ～地奔走于三个城市之间，他觉得很疲惫。

Example 1 All that nonstop shuttling between these 3 cities really tires him out.

例句 2 去机场送走朋友之后，他又～地奔向火车站，去接从外地来京考察的代表团。

Example 2 After seeing his friends off at the airport, he rushed to the railway station like a horse galloping, to meet a provincial delegation which came to Beijing on a tour to investigate.

满不在乎 mǎn bù zài hu

not care in the least; couldn't care less; give / take no heed

释 义 完全不放在心上。形容对某事很不重视。

Paraphrase Not worry at all. Approach something lightly.

例句 1 她真是一个狠心的人，别人为她拼命，她还～。

Example 1 She's really heartless. She simply doesn't care in the least when someone is doing his utmost for her.

例句 2 面对别人的冷嘲热讽，她～。

Example 2 She really couldn't care less about all those sharp and mean remarks of others.

满载而归 mǎn zài ér guī

return from a rewarding journey

释 义 装着满满的东西回来。比喻有很大的收获。载：装载；归：回来。

Paraphrase Come back, bringing with one a load of goods. a metaphor, having plenty of good results. “载”: load; “归”: return.

例句 1 祝你们～！

Example 1 May you return from a rewarding journey!

例句 2 今天学校组织采摘，同学们个个～。

Example 2 Today the school organized the students to pick fruit and everyone brought back with him a full load.

反 义 两手空空 一无所获

漫不经心 màn bù jīng xīn

negligent; careless

释 义 随随便便，不放在心上。漫：随意，随便；经心：在意，留心。

Paraphrase In an offhand way. Pay no heed to something. “漫”: at random, at will; “经心”: care, heed.

例句 1 小王坐在靠窗的桌边，～地翻着报纸。

Example 1 Seated at a table near the window, Xiao Wang was going through a newspaper idly.

例句 2 我～地往那个方向看了一眼，结果大吃一惊。

Example 2 I cast a casual glance in that direction, only to get greatly startled.

反 义 郑重其事

漫山遍野 màn shān biàn yě

all over the mountains and plains

释 义 山间田野到处都是，形容很多。漫：满；遍：到处。

Paraphrase All over the mountains and plains—a great many of something. “漫”: full; “遍”: far and near.

例句 1 我喜欢～的茶树，更喜欢美丽的采茶姑娘。

Example 1 I like the tea-plants far and near and I am even more fond of those lovely girls picking the tea.

例句 2 一到春天，～的桃花映入眼帘，美极了！

Example 2 Spring comes and peach blossoms greet you all over from the mountains and plains. What a beautiful sight!

反 义 星星点点

漫无边际 màn wú biān jì

straying far from the subject; rambling

释 义 大水弥漫，无边无际。比喻说话、写文章离题很远，抓不住中心。漫：水涨的样子。

Paraphrase Be flooded, boundless. A metaphor, (of speech or writing) very long and does not seem to have any clear organization or purpose. “漫”: the way a river is swollen.

例句 1 写文章不能～地瞎写，应该有主有次。

Example 1 You should not be straying too far from the subject when writing an article. It's necessary to differentiate the primary parts from the secondary ones.

例句 2 他～地说了半天，我是丈二和尚摸不着头脑。

Example 2 He rambled on and on, with me unable to make head or tail of him.

反 义 简明扼要

慢条斯理 màn tiáo sī lǐ

leisurely

释 义 慢慢腾腾，不慌不忙。原指说话做事不慌不忙，有条有理。现多形容说话做事不紧不慢。

Paraphrase Slowly, unhurriedly. Talk or conduct oneself in a calm and orderly fashion.

例句 1 我问了他三遍，他才～地回答了我一句。

Example 1 After I had asked him 3 times did he answer me one sentence still unhurriedly.

例句 2 他干什么都～的，从来不着急。

Example 2 He never does anything promptly and always carries himself in a leisurely fashion.

反 义 风风火火

盲人摸象 máng rén mō xiàng

a group of blind men trying to size up an elephant, each mistaking the part he touches for the whole animal

释 义 好比盲人用手摸大象来感知大象的样子一样，比喻以点代面、以偏概全。

Paraphrase A metaphor, to generalize from particulars, take a part for the whole.

例句 1 咱们几个好像是～，每个人都把自己触摸到的局部当做了全部。

Example 1 We are like a few blind men trying to size up an elephant, each mistaking the part he touches for the whole.

例句 2 我看你们几个人是～，都没了解问题的全部。

Example 2 As I see it, you are just like some men trying to size up an elephant, with no one fully understanding the whole issue.

典 故 有几个盲人，从来没有见过大象，但是他们想知道大象长什么样子，所以就分别去摸大象。第一个人摸到了象牙，他说："我知道了，大象像一根长萝卜！"第二个摸到了象耳朵，说："不，大象像一个簸箕！"第三个摸到了大象的腿，说："大象像根柱子！"第四个摸着象尾巴，说："大象像一根粗绳子！"第五个摸到了象的后背，说："大象像一张床！"第六个摸着大象的肚子，说："你们都错了，大象明明像一堵墙嘛！"他们每个人都觉得自己对，谁也说服不了谁。

毛遂自荐 máo suì zì jiàn

offer one's services as Mao Sui did

释 义 比喻自告奋勇或自我推荐去做某事。

Paraphrase A metaphor, volunteer one's services or recommend oneself for a job.

例句 1 这位～的国家女排教练，又率领队员们夺下了世界冠军。

Example 1 The coach of the national women's volleyball team offered his services as Mao Sui did, he has once again led his team to achieve Gold in the World Championship.

例句 2 小张这次～要求去西藏工作，好像是为了实现他父亲生前的愿望。

Example 2 Xiao Zhang now volunteers herself to work in Tibet as if to realize his father's unfulfilled wishes.

典 故 赵孝成王九年，秦军包围了都城邯郸。赵王派平原君去楚国求救，平原君打算带领二十个能文能武的门客一起去，可是挑选了十几个人，还缺一人。有一个叫毛遂的门客自荐前往，平原君十分犹豫，后来听了毛遂的一番话，才勉强同意。到了楚国，平原君反复向楚王说明联合抗秦的好处，但是由于楚王害怕秦国，始终不敢答应。这时毛遂手按宝剑，快步登上大殿，对楚王软硬兼施，表明利害，最终说服楚王签订了楚赵盟约。

眉飞色舞 méi fēi/sè wǔ

with dancing eyebrows and radiant face

释 义 形容非常高兴的神态。

Paraphrase A look of delight.

例句 1 看到同学们一个个～的样子，就知道元旦晚会办得很成功。

Example 1 I could tell from the dancing eyebrows and radiant faces of my classmates that the party for New Year's Day was a big success.

例句 2 每次说起春节庙会，他都要～地讲述一番气功表演。

Example 2 Every time he talks about the temple fair of the Spring Festival, we always see him giving a vivid account of the qigong performance with dancing eyebrows and a radiant face.

眉开眼笑 méi kāi yǎn xiào

be all smiles

释 义 眉头舒展开来，眼里含着笑意。形容极其高兴的样子。

Paraphrase With smooth brows and smiling eyes; overjoyed.

例句 1 听邻居夸自己的孩子聪明懂事，王阿姨～。

Example 1 Aunt Wang was all smiles when she heard those neighbours praise her child for being clever and well-behaved.

例句 2 看你～的样子，有什么好消息要告诉我？

Example 2 You are all smiles. What good news are you going to tell me?

近 义 喜上眉梢

美中不足 měi zhōng bù zú

a blemish in an otherwise perfect thing

释 义 事情或事物虽好，却有使人不满意或者感到遗憾的地方。

Paraphrase Though a thing is generally good, there exists a lack of something necessary or desirable for completion or perfection.

例句 1 这篇文章写得不错，可惜结尾太仓促了，显得有些～。

Example 1 This is a good article, except for the hurried ending.

例句 2 这次来北京很高兴，～的是没能和李老师见面。

Example 2 I really enjoyed my trip to Beijing except that I failed to meet Mr. Li. It was something of a blemish in an otherwise perfect trip.

面面俱到 miàn miàn jù dào

attend to each and every aspect of a matter

释 义 各个方面都能注意或照顾到。今多指照顾到各方面而没有重点。俱：全，都。

Paraphrase Be able to heed or attend to every aspect. Now, in most cases, be without a focal point as a result of an even distribution of one's attention. "俱": all, full.

例句 1 他的演讲之所以没有得奖，是因为太～了。

Example 1 His speech failed to win an award in that he goes too far in an attempt to attend to each and every aspect of a matter.

例句 2 你的这篇文章～，但重点不突出。

Example 2 Although you try your best in your essay to attend to each and every aspect of the subject, you eventually fail to stress the main point.

反 义 顾此失彼 挂一漏万

面面相觑 miàn miàn xiāng qù

look at each other in blank dismay

释义 你看我，我看你，互相对看。形容人们因惊惧、尴尬或无可奈何而互相望着，都不说话。觑：偷看。

Paraphrase Look at one another with nothing to say as a result of being frightened, embarrassed, or puzzled. "觑": peek.

例句 1 大家都听见了那个怪异的声音，一个个～，大惊失色。

Example 1 Everyone heard that weird sound and looked at each other blankly, pale with fright.

例句 2 听老师这么一问，大家～，不知该如何回答。

Example 2 The teacher's question puzzled everyone and we just looked at each other in blank dismay, with no idea how to answer.

面目全非 miàn mù quán fēi

be changed beyond recognition

释义 样子完全不是以前那样了。多含贬义。非：不是。

Paraphrase Be completely different from the way something looked before. Often used in a derogative sense. "非": not.

例句 1 一场战争之后，这里的一切～。

Example 1 A war has changed this place beyond recognition.

例句 2 这篇文章经他一改，已经～了。

Example 2 Thanks to his changes, this article has become something else completely.

名不虚传 míng bù xū chuán

live up to one's reputation

释义 流传的好名声与实际相符。名：名声；虚：虚假。

Paraphrase Have a well-deserved reputation. "名": reputation; "虚": false.

例句 1 人们都说山海关是"天下第一关"，今日一见，的确～。

Example 1 Shanhai Pass is known as "the first pass under heaven" When I saw it today, it really did live up to its reputation.

例句 2 昨天我们品尝了北京烤鸭，果然～，大家都觉得非常好吃。

Example 2 Yesterday we tried some Beijing roast duck. It really lived up to its reputation and we all enjoyed it very much.

近 义 名副其实

反 义 名不副实

名副其实 míng fù qí shí

be something in reality as well as in name

释 义 名称或名声与实际相符。副：符合，相符。

Paraphrase The name matches the reality. "副": accord with.

例句 1 老王在工作上勤勤恳恳、认真负责，是～的老黄牛。

Example 1 Lao Wang is always diligent and conscientious in his work, a willing ox in reality as well as in name.

例句 2 夏天的昆明凉爽宜人，是～的春城。

Example 2 It's pleasantly cool in summer's Kunming, a "spring city" worthy of the name.

莫名其妙 mò míng qí miào

without reason

释 义 不能说出其中的奥妙。形容事情奇怪玄妙或毫无根据、不合情理，使人无法理解。名：说出；妙：奥妙。

Paraphrase Can't make head or tail of something. (Of something) odd and mysterious, abnormal, abstruse. "名": tell; "妙": what's behind.

例句 1 我刚说了一句话，他就哈哈大笑起来，真是～。

Example 1 I've only said one sentence and he began to laugh

loudly without any reason.

例句 2 我们在说今天学校的事情，她却～地哭了起来。

Example 2 As we are talking about what happened today at school, she burst out crying without any reason.

莫逆之交 mò nì zhī jiāo

bosom friends

释 义 指心意相投、不相违背的知心朋友。莫：没有什么；逆：违逆；交：交往，往来的朋友。

Paraphrase Intimate friends who can always see eye to eye and get well along. "莫": without any; "逆": conflict; "交": company, companion.

例句 1 老王跟他是～，老王的话他准听。

Example 1 Lao Wang is his bosom friend whom he will certainly listen to.

例句 2 他和我可算是～，我们一起共事三十年，从来没闹过别扭。

Example 2 He and I have been bosom friends, working together for 30 years, and have never had any difficulty with each other.

木已成舟 mù yǐ chéng zhōu

the wood is already made into a boat

释 义 木头已经做成了船。比喻事情已成定局，不能改变。

Paraphrase A metaphor, what is done cannot be undone.

例句 1 你快回去处理一下，等这事～，你可就惨了。

Example 1 Go back to handle the case immediately, or you'll be in trouble up once the wood is already made into a boat.

例句 2 当老李从美国回来时，这事早就～了。

Example 2 When Lao Li came back from the US, the issue had long been a piece of wood already made into a boat.

耐人寻味　nài rén xún wèi

afford food for thought

释 义　经得起仔细体味。形容意味深长。耐：经得起；寻味：仔细体味。

Paraphrase　Be worth savoring repeatedly; deep meaning. “耐”: stand up to; “寻味”: taste attentively.

例句 1　好小说应该～，令人百看不厌。

Example 1　A good story should afford food for thought and be worth reading a hundred times.

例句 2　这篇文章文辞优美，～。

Example 2　This article, with its exquisite words, affords food for thought.

近 义　意味深长

反 义　淡而无味　味同嚼蜡

南辕北辙　nán yuán běi zhé

try to go south by driving the chariot north

释 义　要去南方，车子却向北走。比喻行动和目的相反。辕：马车上驾马的木杆；辙：车轮压的印，指道路。

Paraphrase　A metaphor, act in a way that defeats one's purpose. “辕”: either of the two long shafts between which an animal is fastened when pulling a wagon; “辙”: a sunken track made by the wheels, implying the road.

例句 1　你对孩子说要诚实，可是自己却说谎，这不是～吗？

Example 1　You told your child to be honest while you yourself lied. Wouldn't you be acting in a way that defeats your purpose?

例句 2　用逃避的方式对付恐怖主义岂不是～了？

Example 2　Wouldn't you be making an attempt to go south by driving the chariot north if you are to counter terrorism in an evading manner?

近　义　背道而驰

反　义　殊途同归

典　故　有一个人要到南方的楚国去，却驾着车往北走。有人问他："你去楚国，怎么向北走？那不是越走越远吗？"他说："我的马很能跑，我的车夫技术也高，我又有充足的路费，我一定能到达楚国的。"

难舍难分　nán shě nán fēn

be loath to part from each other

释　义　舍不得分离。形容双方感情深。舍：放下；分：分离。

Paraphrase　Hate to part. Cherish a deep affection for each other. "舍": drop; "分": part.

例句 1　看他们～的样子，就知道他们的感情很深。

Example 1　Anyone can see, from how they hate to part from each other, that they are deep in love.

例句 2　相处四年的同学，毕业时真有点儿～。

Example 2　After getting along with classmates for 4 years, you really hate to leave them on graduation.

近　义　依依不舍　恋恋不舍

难言之隐 nán yán zhī yǐn

something that would be awkward to disclose

释 义 难以说出口的事情或原因。隐：隐情，藏在内心深处的事。

Paraphrase A matter or a story that would be awkward to disclose. “隐”: secrets, facts or circumstances one hides in the depths of his heart.

例句 1 你是不是有什么～？如果不方便说，就算了。

Example 1 Would it be really awkward for you to disclose? Never mind if it's inconvenient for you.

例句 2 她不肯说，一定有～，我们还是不要逼她了。

Example 2 She simply won't say anything. It must be something that would be awkward to disclose, so we'd better not push her.

O

藕断丝连 ǒu duàn sī lián

lotus root broke but strands remained attached

释 义 藕虽断了，但丝还连在一起。比喻表面上好像已经断了关系，但实际上仍有牵连。

Paraphrase Although the lotus root has been cut, strands however remain attached. Figuratively, although relations appear to be broken on the surface, but in actual fact there remains a connection.

例句 1 老王的妻子总是怀疑他和过去的女友～。

Example 1 Lao Wang's wife always suspects that he and his ex-girlfriend still have feelings for each other.

例句 2 你已经再婚了，怎么能和前妻～？

Example 2 You have already remarried, how could you be still seeing your ex-wife?

反 义 一刀两断

P

判若两人　pàn ruò liǎng rén

no longer one's old self

释 义　指同一个人的言行、外貌、性格前后不一，就像两个人似的。

Paraphrase　(Of one person) have changed a lot in one's behavior, appearance, and character, and become a different person.

例句 1　他一向和颜悦色的，今天却一直绷着脸，和以前～。

Example 1　Today he became quite another person, pulling a long face all day, his normally genial expression is nowhere to be found.

例句 2　文静的王甜甜在球场上勇猛无比，和平时简直～。

Example 2　Wang Tiantian would be quite a different person once on the court. A normally gentle and quiet girl would immediately become fearfully fierce.

庞然大物　páng rán dà wù

huge monster; colossus

释 义　外表、体积很大的东西。后也用来指表面强大但实际很虚伪的事物。

Paraphrase　Something that appears to be a large size. In later use, also, superficially powerful but in reality weak and hollow.

例句 1　对于老鼠来说，大象当然是个～，可据说大象怕老鼠。

Example 1　In the eyes of a mouse, the elephant is obviously a huge monster. Yet apparently the elephant is fearful of the mouse.

例句 2　面对老虎这个～，六岁的小亮竟然能死里逃生，真是奇迹。

Example 2　It's really a miracle for Xiao Liang, aged only 6, to have escaped from death when facing a big monster-like tiger.

旁观者清　páng guān zhě qīng

the onlooker sees most of the game

释 义　局外人比当事人看得清楚。旁观者：指局外人；清：清楚。

Paraphrase　A spectator sees more clearly than the person directly involved in it. "旁观者": outsider; "清": clearly.

例句 1　～，请告诉我你是怎么看这事的。

Example 1　I would like to know how you see this matter, as the onlooker sees most of the game.

例句 2　你应该听听别人的意见，～嘛。

Example 2　You should listen to some opinions of the other people, for the spectator sees most clearly.

旁敲侧击　páng qiāo cè jī

attack by innuendo; make oblique references

释 义　从侧面击打。比喻说话、写文章不从正面说明，而从侧面加以影射。旁、侧：泛指不正。

Paraphrase　Strike from one side. A metaphor, in writing or superficial, allude to something instead of directly mentioning it. "旁"、"侧": generally, oblique.

例句 1　不管我怎么～，他就是不说实话。

Example 1　No matter what oblique references I made, he just wouldn't tell the truth.

例句 2　你别～了，有话请直说。

Example 2　No more oblique references. Please just say it.

反 义 直言相告

旁若无人 páng ruò wú rén

act as if there were no one else present

释 义 形容态度自然或高傲，好像旁边没有人。若：好像。

Paraphrase Be self-assured or supercilious as if in the presence of no one else. "若": as if.

例句 1 教室里的同学都在安静地自习，而他却～地接电话。

Example 1 In the classroom every student was doing some individual study while he was answering phone calls as if there was no one else present.

例句 2 那几个抢劫犯再次～地走进商店准备抢劫，被早已守候在里屋的警察抓住了。

Example 2 Once again those robbers swaggered into the shop in another robber attempt only to find themselves caught red-handed by policemen, who have long been waiting in the inner room.

近 义 目中无人

抛砖引玉 pāo zhuān yǐn yù

cast a brick to attract jade

释 义 抛出砖块，引来玉石。常用于以自己粗浅的、不成熟的意见或文字引出别人高见的谦词。

Paraphrase (Often a self-depreciatory expression) offer a few superficial or immature remarks by way of introduction so that others may come up with valuable opinions.

例句 1 我的发言不过是～，真正精彩的还在后面呢。

Example 1 I speak as if to cast a brick in an attempt to attract jade. What's truly wonderful is still ahead.

例句 2 我刚才的发言算是～，下面大家欢迎老王讲话。

Example 2 My words serve only as a brick to attract jade. Now let's ask Lao Wang to deliver a speech to us.

典 故 唐代有个名叫常建的诗人，很仰慕诗人赵嘏(gǔ)。在赵嘏游灵岩寺的时候，常建提前赶到那里，在墙上题了两句诗。赵嘏来到那里，看到墙上的诗后诗兴大发，便在后面续写了两句，补成一首完整的诗。后来人们把这种做法叫抛砖引玉。

疲惫不堪 pí bèi bù kān

be dog-tired

释 义 非常劳累、疲乏。疲惫：很疲劳；不堪：不能忍受。

Paraphrase Be in a state of utter exhaustion. "疲惫": tired out; "不堪": can't bear.

例句 1 爬到玉皇顶时，大家都～。

Example 1 When we finally reached the Jade Emperor Summit, everyone was dog-tired.

例句 2 为了复习考试，我连续三天没睡觉，结果搞得～。

Example 2 I have not slept for three consecutive nights revising for the exam and got myself dog-tired.

近 义 筋疲力尽

反 义 精力充沛

疲于奔命 pí yú bēn mìng

be kept constantly on the run

释 义 接受命令而东奔西走，劳累不堪，也指事情繁多忙不过来。疲：劳累；奔：到处奔跑。

Paraphrase Take orders and rush about for them; be weighed down with work. "疲": run-down; "奔": rush about.

例句 1 你最近这几个月～，该好好休息一下了。

Example 1 You have been weighed down with work these few months and ought to have a good rest.

例句 2 如果做事没有计划，往往会弄得～，结果还不理想。

Example 2 If you don't have a plan in mind when doing something, you are likely to be kept constantly on the run but all to no avail.

片言只语 piàn yán zhī yǔ

(in) only a few words

释 义 短短的几句话或几个字，也指零碎的言语。

Paraphrase Brief or fragment words.

例句 1 小王给小张写了好多封求爱信，可是得不到～的回答。

Example 1 Xiao Wang wrote several love letters to Xiao Zhang, who hasn't even written a few words in reply.

例句 2 小凡走时没有留下～，实在让父母着急。

Example 2 Xiaofan left, without saying a word, which did concern his parents a lot.

近 义 三言两语

反 义 长篇大论　连篇累牍

平易近人 píng yì jìn rén

amiable and easy to approach

释 义 态度和蔼，不摆架子，容易使人接近。

Paraphrase Be with no air and easily approachable.

例句 1 我觉得新来的厂长挺～的，你们怎么说他很凶呢？

Example 1 In my eyes, the new factory director is quite amiable and easy to approach. How come you describe him as a fiend?

例句 2　李市长～，没有一点儿架子。

Example 2　Major Li is amiable and gives off no air.

近　义　和蔼可亲

反　义　目中无人　盛气凌人

萍水相逢　píng shuǐ xiāng féng

(of strangers) meet by chance like patches of drifting duckweed

释　义　像漂在水上的浮萍，偶然遇到一起。比喻素不相识的人偶然相遇。萍：一种浮生在水上的植物。

Paraphrase　A Metaphor, (of strangers) meet by chance like duckweed floating on water. "萍": a plant that grows on water in a large green floating mass.

例句 1　在异国他乡，这几个～的人聚在一起包饺子，庆祝新年。

Example 1　In a foreign country, these few people, who had only met by chance like patches of drifting duckweed, gathered to make dumplings to celebrate New Year.

例句 2　他俩虽然是～，但是谈得很投机。

Example 2　Though they had only met by chance, they had a most agreeable chat.

迫不得已　pò bù dé yǐ

(do something) against one's will; be forced (or driven, compelled) to

释　义　被逼得没有办法了才采取的行动。迫：逼迫；不得已：不得不如此。

Paraphrase　Have no alternative but to do something. "迫": compel; "不得已": have to.

例句 1　如果不是～，我才不吃方便面呢。

Example 1 Actually I feed on instant noodles out of sheer necessity.

例句 2 那几个高个子男孩总是欺负小刚，小刚～，让他们尝了尝少林拳的厉害。

Example 2 Those tall boys kept bullying Xiaogang, who then had no choice but let them have a good taste of his Shaolin Boxing.

近 义 被逼无奈

反 义 心甘情愿

迫不及待 pò bù jí dài

be impatient to do something

释 义 时间紧迫，来不及等待。迫：紧迫；及：达到；待：等待。

Paraphrase Be pressed for time and can't wait to do something. "迫": urgent; "及": get to; "待": wait.

例句 1 一接到女朋友的信，小王就～拆开来看。

Example 1 Xiao Wang simply couldn't wait to open his girl friend's letter, which he had just received.

例句 2 马克一买到《三国演义》，就～地读起来。

Example 2 Mark was impatient to read *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* which he had just bought.

反 义 从容不迫

迫在眉睫 pò zài méi jié

imminent

释 义 比喻事情已经到了眼前，非常紧急。眉睫：指眼前。

Paraphrase A metaphor, things have come to a head and are extremely urgent. "眉睫": before one's eyes.

例句 1　这是一个～的问题，必须马上解决。

Example 1　The problem has come to a head and has to be dealt with quickly.

例句 2　期末考试～，我们应该抓紧时间了。

Example 2　The final exam is imminent and we have to make the best use of our time.

近 义　迫不及待

破镜重圆　pò jìng chóng yuán

a broken mirror joined together

释 义　打破的镜子又重新圆合，比喻夫妻离散后又重新聚合。

Paraphrase　A metaphor, reunion of husband and wife after an enforced separation or rupture.

例句 1　他们夫妻离婚三年，今天又～，真是一大喜事。

Example 1　They divorced 3 years ago. Their reunion today, like a broken mirror joined together, is really a joyous occasion which calls for a celebration.

例句 2　我从日本回来后听说儿女们正在为他俩～做工作。

Example 2　When I was back from Japan, I was told that their children are working to get them back together.

典 故　南朝陈朝将要灭亡时，驸马徐德言把一面铜镜破开，和妻子乐昌公主各藏一半，作为将来重见时的见证，并约定正月十五在集市上卖镜子。后来，他们凭借半面镜子终于团聚。

Q

七上八下 qī shàng bā xià

seven buckets coming up and eight buckets going down

释 义 形容心神不宁、慌乱的样子。

Paraphrase The state of being agitated, or perturbed.

例句 1 不小心打碎了朋友家珍贵的景泰蓝花瓶，王芳心里～的。

Example 1 Having accidentally broken the costly cloisonne vase at her friend's house, Wang Fang was so agitated, it's as if her heart had seven buckets coming up and eight buckets going down.

例句 2 她等不到儿子的电话，心里就会～的。

Example 2 She would be very much upset if unable to receive her son's phone call by the appointed time.

近 义 忐忑不安 惴惴不安

其乐无穷 qí lè wú qióng

find it a delight / joy

释 义 乐趣没有穷尽。指对某事感兴趣而产生很大的快乐。穷：尽。

Paraphrase Infinite joy. Find great interest in something and enjoy it very much. "穷": end.

例句 1 科学探索～。

Example 1 Scientific exploration will bring infinite pleasure.

例句 2 对于科学家来说，研究科学问题～。

Example 2 A scientist will find great delight in probing into a scientific puzzle.

近 义 乐在其中

反 义 兴味索然

其貌不扬 qí mào bù yáng

be unprepossessing / unimposing in appearance

释 义 指人的容貌平常或丑陋。扬：指容貌好看。

Paraphrase Be ordinary or ugly in appearance. "扬": 'good-looking.

例句 1 此人身材矮小，～，一身蓝色的学生装已洗得发白。

Example 1 This person is short and slight in stature, unprepossessing in appearance, and dressed in a student outfit that has already turned whitish through too much washing.

例句 2 你别看她～，她的汉语水平在咱们班可是最高的。

Example 2 Unprepossessing as she is, her Chinese is the best in our class.

典 故 唐朝有个诗人叫皮日休，年轻时在山里种田放牛，过着十分清贫的生活，他的诗真实朴素，深受百姓喜爱。虽然他天生相貌丑陋，瘦长的脸上长着一对不太对称的眼睛，但是熟悉他的人都知道在他丑陋的外表下有着非凡的才华。公元 867 年，皮日休进京赶考。主考官看了他的文章后十分钦佩，便派人请皮日休到家中做客。可是他一见皮日休，大失所望，说："你的文章写得那么好，可是你的眼睛长得有点儿……"皮日休很气愤，说："考官大人，您是受朝廷委派来选拔贤人的，可别因为我的一只眼睛而影响了您的两只眼睛啊！"

岂有此理 qǐ yǒu cǐ lǐ

preposterous; outrageous; absurd

释 义 哪有这样的道理。指对不合理的事表示反对和愤慨。岂：难道，哪里，表反问。

Paraphrase There can be found no such ideas(the whole idea sounds absolutely preposterous)! An attitude of contradiction and indignation toward something unreasonable. “岂”: (used to give force to a rhetorical question)how, where.

例句 1 你撞了我的车还出口伤人,简直是~!

Example 1 How impertinent of you to speak so bitingly, when you have just ran your car into mine!

例句 2 我们的人被打伤了,还得赔偿对方损失,真是~!

Example 2 It is outrageous that we should pay them compensation when it's our men who got injured!

杞人忧天 qǐ rén yōu tiān

like the man of Qi who feared that the sky might come down

释 义 比喻不必要的忧虑和担心。忧:担忧。

Paraphrase A metaphor, entertain imaginary or groundless fears. “忧”: be afraid of.

例句 1 就这点儿小病,你就像得了绝症似的,这不是~吗?

Example 1 It's simply some indisposition. Don't always feel as if you had some incurable disease like the man of Qi who feared that the sky might fall.

例句 2 你所担心的事情五百年以后也不会出现,不必~。

Example 2 Your worries won't even materialize 500 years later. You are simply entertaining some imaginary fears.

近 义 庸人自扰

典 故 古时候,杞国有个人没事干,老是担心天会塌下来,使自己无处安身,便整天惶惶不可终日,甚至愁得吃不下饭,睡不好觉,差点儿送了命。

泣不成声 qì bù chéng shēng

choke with sobs

释 义 哭得太伤心了，以至于发不出声音。形容十分悲伤。泣：低声地哭。

Paraphrase Sob so broken-heartedly and uncontrollably as to be unable to speak; extremely sad. "泣": cry quietly.

例句 1 看着女儿～的样子，母亲心如刀绞。

Example 1 Seeing her daughter choking with sobs, the mother felt as if a knife were piercing through her heart.

例句 2 每当提到病死的小狗，小力就～。

Example 2 Xiaoli would choke with sobs at the mention of his puppy which had died from illness.

反 义 欣喜若狂

千方百计 qiān fāng bǎi jì

by every possible / conceivable means; in a thousand and one way; by hook or by crook

释 义 想尽或用尽各种办法。方：方法；计：计策。

Paraphrase Try or exhaust every possible way. "方": method; "计": scheme.

例句 1 为了我能有一个的强壮的身体，母亲总是～地变换花样，为我改善饮食。

Example 1 In order for me to have a strong body, mother always does all she can to try different ways to cook for me, so I would be better fed.

例句 2 为了治好孩子的病，他～地赚钱，希望买到最好的药品。

Example 2 He made money by every conceivable means in the hope of buying the best possible medicine to cure his sick child.

近义 想方设法

反义 无计可施　一筹莫展

千篇一律 qiān piān yī lǜ

stereotyped

释义 原指文章作品内容雷同，格式一样。后泛指事物形式相同，没有变化。篇：指文章。

Paraphrase Originally, be monotonous in content, follow the same pattern. In later use, it refers in general to things that are of the same form and vary little. "篇": a piece of writing.

例句 1 ～的文章不如不做。

Example 1 There is no need for any more stereotyped essay.

例句 2 这次的作文大家写得～，没有一点儿新意。

Example 2 The essay you wrote this time are all of the same pattern and lack a sense of originality.

反义 五花八门

千载难逢 qiān zǎi nán féng

not occurring once in a thousand years

释义 一千年也遇不到。形容机会或景象极为难得。载：年。

Paraphrase (Of a chance or sight) hard to come by; rare. "载": year.

例句 1 这是一个～的好机会，我一定不能错过。

Example 1 This is the chance of a lifetime that I must not miss.

例句 2 国家要选派优秀学生出国留学，我们学校有一个名额，这真是一个～的机会。

Example 2 Our school still has a vacancy for the quota of elite

students to be selected by the state to study abroad. It's a rare chance, you know.

牵一发而动全身 qiān yī fà ér dòng quán shēn

pull one hair and you move the whole body

释 义 比喻动一个极小的部分，就会影响全局。

Paraphrase A metaphor, a slight move in one part may affect the overall situation.

例句 1 调整列车运行图表是～的事，不能有半点疏忽。

Example 1 The train's operating schedule is a matter which allows for no negligence. Any slight move in one part may affect the overall situation.

例句 2 这件事关系到各方的不同利益，～，千万不能马虎。

Example 2 This issue concerns interests of all parties. Pull one hair and the whole body moves. You can never be too careless with it.

前功尽弃 qián gōng jìn qì

all that has been achieved is spoiled

释 义 以前的成绩全都废弃了，指以前的努力完全白费。

Paraphrase All you have achieved is thrown away, implying that all one's previous efforts are wasted.

例句 1 考试的时候一定要调整好心态，否则会～。

Example 1 Make yourself mentally well adjusted during the period of an examination, or you'll risk all you have gained.

例句 2 本来她都同意给咱们投资了，可你这么一说，她马上改变了主意，我们～了！

Example 2 Originally she had given her word to grant us an investment, but your remarks immediately made her change her mind. What a waste of our entire efforts!

近义 功败垂成

反义 大功告成

典故 战国末年,强大的秦国为了统一天下,经常对外用兵。大将白起曾经先后替秦国打败过韩国和魏国。公元前 281 年,秦国又派白起攻打魏国都城大梁。有人就对周天子说:“如果大梁被秦军占领,周朝就危险了。”于是周天子派人对白起说:“您已经破了韩、魏,在北方还夺取了赵国的一些地方,立下的战功已经够多的了,如果您继续攻打魏国,万一失败了,以前的功劳不是全丢了吗? 您还是称病不出兵为好。”

潜移默化 qián yí mò huà

imperceptibly influence

释义 指人的思想性格在一定环境影响下不知不觉发生变化。潜:暗地里;默:无声。

Paraphrase Exert a subtle influence on somebody's character, thinking etc., and make them change imperceptibly. “潜”: stealthily; “默”: silently.

例句 1 音乐对人的性格有着～的影响。

Example 1 Music can exert a subtle influence on one's character.

例句 2 父母是孩子的第一任教师,父母对孩子～的作用实在是太大了。

Example 2 Parents are the child's first teachers and will exert upon him a subtle influence, the importance of which can by no means be played down.

近义 耳濡目染

黔驴技穷 qián lǘ jì qióng

the Qian donkey has exhausted its tricks—at the end of one's

wit

释 义 比喻有限的一点儿本领都已用尽。黔：古代贵州的一个地区；穷：尽。

Paraphrase A metaphor, one's few tricks have all been tried out. "黔": a part of the Guizhou region in ancient times; "穷": end.

例句 1 犯罪分子已经～，事情马上就会水落石出了。

Example 1 Those criminals, like the proverbial Guizhou donkeys, have exhausted their cheap tricks. When the water subsides, the rocks emerge. The truth will soon be revealed.

例句 2 你看他半天没说话，八成是～了。

Example 2 He remained silent for quite a while, most probably at the end of his wit.

典 故 黔州本来没有驴。一天，有人从外地带回一头驴，在山脚下放养。老虎见是个庞然大物，以为是神，吓得躲到了树林里。过了一些天，老虎走近那头驴，想戏弄它一下，驴大叫一声，老虎害怕极了。后来，老虎发现驴就那么点儿本领，就扑上去，一口把驴咬死了。

乔迁之喜 qiáo qiān zhī xǐ

congratulations on your new home

释 义 祝贺别人迁居或升官的话。乔：乔木，借指高；迁：迁移。

Paraphrase Congratulations given to someone who has moved to a new and better house or been promoted. "乔": arbor, symbolizing a high positon; "迁": move.

例句 1 祝贺你～！

Example 1 Congratulations on your promotion!

例句 2 听说你搬入新居，应该祝贺你～啊。

Example 2 I heard that you moved to your new home. Congratulations!

巧夺天工 qiǎo duó tiān gōng

superb craftsmanship excelling nature

释义 制作精巧到了极点，超过了天然。形容制作技艺之高超。

Paraphrase Exceedingly fine workmanship that surpasses nature's work.

例句 1 民间艺人的手艺～，令人赞叹。

Example 1 Those folk craftsmen's wonderful workmanship really excels nature's work and evokes awe.

例句 2 苏州园林格局奇特，古朴典雅，真可谓～。

Example 2 The classical Suzhou gardens, with their quaint setup, and primitive simplicity and elegance, are works of superb craftsmanship.

锲而不舍 qiè ér bù shě

work with perseverance

释义 一直不停地刻，金石也可以雕空。比喻做事坚持到底，有毅力。锲：雕刻。

Paraphrase Even metals and stones can be pierced if you keep on chipping away at them. A metaphor, follow something through with perseverance. "锲": carve.

例句 1 做事要有～的精神，不能虎头蛇尾，半途而废。

Example 1 You should work with perseverance instead of giving up halfway and thus coupling a fine start with a poor finish.

例句 2 刘翔之所以能取得奥运冠军，与他～的刻苦训练和科学有效的训练方法是分不开的。

Example 2 Liu Xiang won the Olympic championship, as a result of his perseverance, diligence, and scientifically sound training methods.

近 义 持之以恒

反 义 虎头蛇尾 半途而废

青梅竹马 qīng méi zhú mǎ

green plums and a bamboo horse

释 义 指幼年男女天真无邪、亲密无间地在一起玩耍。青梅：青绿的梅子；竹马：小孩子骑竹竿当马。

Paraphrase A girl and a boy playing innocently and intimately together. “青梅”：green plums；“竹马”：children’s play with a bamboo stick to imitate riding a horse.

例句 1 他们两个～，郎才女貌，是让人羡慕的一对。

Example 1 They were an admirable couple who had been fond of each other since childhood, and a combination of a man’s capability and a woman’s beauty.

例句 2 父亲和母亲从小～，结婚以后恩爱有加，如今到了结婚四十周年纪念日，我们兄弟几个为他们准备了一份特别的礼物：两张去夏威夷的飞机票。

Example 2 My growing parents are a couple of green plums and a bamboo horse, with affection for each other after their marriage. Now, for their 40th wedding anniversary, my brothers and I prepared a special gift for them—two plane tickets to Hawaii.

近 义 两小无猜

轻车熟路 qīng chē shú lù

drive in a light carriage on a familiar road

释 义 赶着轻便的车，走很熟悉的路。比喻做某件事情很熟悉，干起来不费力。

Paraphrase A metaphor, do something one knows well and

can manage with ease.

例句 1 修理电脑对王丰来说～，不一会儿就能修好。

Example 1 To Wang Feng, it's an easy job repairing a computer, like driving in a light carriage on a familiar road, it won't take him much time.

例句 2 他先后在很多大公司当总经理，管理企业对他来说是～。

Example 2 Having worked as a general manager in many big companies, it's an easy task for him to manage a commercial enterprise.

近 义 驾轻就熟

轻而易举 qīng ér yì jǔ

easy to do

释 义 东西轻，很容易举起来。比喻不费力气。

Paraphrase Light and easy to lift. A metaphor, work with ease.

例句 1 对李民来说，设计网页是～的事。

Example 1 Web page designing is easy for Li Ming.

例句 2 对外国人来讲，学习汉语可不是件～的事情。

Example 2 The Chinese language is not easy for foreigners to grasp.

近 义 不费吹灰之力　易如反掌

反 义 难于登天

倾国倾城 qīng guó qīng chéng

(of a woman) lovely enough to cause the fall of a city or state; devastatingly beautiful

释 义 原指因爱悦女子容貌之美而使得城池和国家倾覆，后形

容女子容貌极美。

Paraphrase Originally, a city or state can be reduced to chaos as a result of one man's affection for a beautiful woman; in later use, (of a woman) exceedingly beautiful.

例句 1 传说中国古代四大美女都有～的容貌。

Example 1 China's four great classical beauties all possessed legendary loveliness, enough to cause the fall of a city or a state.

例句 2 她虽然没有～的容貌，但是有着超凡脱俗的气质。

Example 2 She may not be devastatingly beautiful, but is exceedingly refined and graceful.

典 故 一天，汉武帝听乐师李延年唱道："北方有佳人，绝世而独立，一顾倾人城，再顾倾人国。宁不知倾城与倾国，佳人难再得！"汉武帝对歌的内容很感兴趣，问："世上真有这样的绝代佳人吗？""有啊！"武帝的姐姐平阳公主插话道："李延年的妹妹就是这样的佳人。"武帝让人把她带进宫来一看，果然是绝代佳人。于是把她留在身边，称为李夫人。李夫人原来是一个歌伎，她在武帝身边不久就病死了。武帝为怀念她而作的诗歌，流传后世。

情不自禁 qíng bù zì jīn

be seized with a sudden impulse to

释 义 感情激动，不能自己控制。禁(不读 jìn)：克制。

Paraphrase Too excited to refrain from. "禁(not pronounced jìn)": refrain.

例句 1 听到比赛结果，大家～地欢呼起来。

Example 1 When we finally heard the result of the game, everyone couldn't help burst out cheering.

例句 2 爸爸见到了分别多年的老战友，～地流下了激动的泪水。

Example 2 When my father met his comrade in arms again after many years of separation, he couldn't help burst into tears.

近 义 不能自已

反 义 心如止水

情同手足 qíng tóng shǒu zú

with brotherly love for each other

释 义 比喻感情深厚，像一个人身体上的手和脚一样和谐。手足：比喻亲兄弟。

Paraphrase A metaphor, be in harmony with one another like the hands and feet of a person. "手足": a metaphor, full brothers.

例句 1 多年来他们俩一直～，从没红过一次脸。

Example 1 For years they have shared a brotherly love for each other and there has never been a cross word between the two of them.

例句 2 他们虽然不是亲兄弟，但～，令人羡慕。

Example 2 Though not brothers, they treated each other fraternally in an admirable way.

近 义 情同骨肉

反 义 仇深似海　不共戴天

情有可原 qíng yǒu kě yuán

excusable

释 义 从情理上讲有可原谅之处。原：原谅。

Paraphrase That can be justifiably excused. "原": forgive.

例句 1 听了他的解释，我才知道他这样做是～的，于是我的心软了下来。

Example 1 He explained the whole story until I gradually softened towards him for I came to realize that he was excusable.

例句 2 这件事小李做得是有点儿过分，但他也是为了生病的弟弟，～，你就不要再指责他了。

Example 2 He did go too far in this matter, but excusable, for he did it for his sick brother. Forgive him, please.

反 义 情理难容

求之不得 qiú zhī bù dé

all one could wish for

释 义 想得到的东西而又得不到。也形容机会难得。

Paraphrase Be eager for something but can't expect to get it; (of a chance) hard to come by.

例句 1 老师让他去美国参加一项合作研究，这对他来说可是一个～的好机会。

Example 1 His teacher asked him to go to the US and take part in a joint research project. It actually was all he could wish for.

例句 2 姐姐来电话说帮我买了一张王菲演唱会的票，我正～呢。

Example 2 My sister phoned to tell me that she had booked me a ticket for Wang Fei's concert, which I was only too glad to receive.

近 义 梦寐以求

屈指可数 qū zhǐ kě shǔ

can be counted on one's fingers

释 义 扳着手指头就能数过来。形容数目极少。

Paraphrase Very few.

例句 1 会跳水的人在我们学校～。

Example 1 I can count on my fingers all those people from our school, who are able to dive.

例句 2 在那个落后的山区，有文化的人～。

Example 2 In that backward mountainous region, very few people are literate.

反 义 不胜枚举

曲高和寡 qǔ gāo hè guǎ

highbrow songs find few singers; too highbrow to be popular

释 义 曲调越高深，跟唱的人就越少。比喻言行不凡，别人不易理解。也指文艺作品不通俗，能够理解的人很少。和（不读 hé）：和谐地跟着唱。

Paraphrase The more recondite a melody is, the fewer are its followers. A metaphor, extraordinary words and deeds can be difficult for others to understand. Also, (of literary and artistic works) not popular among readers, for few could understand it. "和 (not pronounced hé)": sing in perfect harmony with others.

例句 1 虽然这部作品水平很高，但内容远离一般人的生活，所以～，无人问津。

Example 1 Though a work of high calibre, it keeps itself at a distance from the life of an ordinary person and is, therefore, too highbrow to be popular. Nobody bothers to ask about it.

例句 2 你的这个题目太难了，～，我担心能来参加讨论的同学不会很多。

Example 2 The topic you assigned could be too highbrow to be popular, I'm afraid. So not many students would take part in the discussion.

反 义 雅俗共赏

取长补短 qǔ cháng bǔ duǎn

overcome one's weak points by learning from other's strong points

释 义 吸取别人的长处，来弥补自己的不足之处。

Paraphrase Learn from others' strong points to offset one's own weaknesses.

例句 1 我们在一起学习可以互相～，共同进步。

Example 1 We could study together in order to learn from each other to make up deficiencies and make progress together.

例句 2 人无完人，我们应该学会～。

Example 2 To err is human. We should try to overcome our own weak points by learning from each other's strong points.

R

人山人海　rén shān rén hǎi

huge crowds of people

释 义　形容聚集的人很多。

Paraphrase　A large number of people have crowded together in a place.

例句 1　“十一”的晚上，天安门广场上～，热闹非凡。

Example 1　On the evening of Oct. 1st, there are huge crowds of people on Tian'anmen Square. What a hustle and bustle!

例句 2　每年春节庙会上都是～的，表演民间花会的、买卖东西的、看热闹的，可多了。

Example 2　There is a huge crowd of people at the Temple Fair every year. Some are practising folk acrobatics, some are selling and buying goods, some are just looking around for fun.

近 义　熙熙攘攘

反 义　空无一人

人云亦云　rén yún yì yún

parrot other people's words

释 义　别人怎么说，自己就跟着怎么说，指没有主见。云：说；亦：也。

Paraphrase　To echo what other says; without one's own opinion. “云”: to say;“亦”: also.

例句 1　你并不了解情况，不要～。

Example 1 You don't know what actually happened. Don't parrot other people's words.

例句 2 别听他的，他就会～。

Example 2 Don't take his words seriously. He is simply parroting other people's words.

近 义 拾人牙慧 随声附和

反 义 自成一家

仁者见仁，智者见智 rén zhě jiàn rén，zhì zhě jiàn zhì

different people have different opinions

释 义 指不同的人对一件事有不同的看法。仁者：有仁爱之心的人；智者：有智慧的人。

Paraphrase Different people have different opinions towards the same thing. "仁者": people who are kind and benevolent; "智者": people who are of great wisdom.

例句 1 对于安乐死，～。

Example 1 Different people have different opinions towards euthanasia.

例句 2 两种办法都可以，～，不能简单地说哪个对哪个错。

Example 2 Both methods will do. Different people have different opinions. It's too hasty to say which is right and which is wrong.

近 义 见仁见智

忍俊不禁 rěn jùn bù jīn

can't help laughing

释 义 忍不住要发笑。忍俊：原指忍住不显露自己的才华，后指含笑；禁：控制。

Paraphrase Someone is unable to prevent himself from laughing. "忍俊": originally it means holding oneself back from showing one's talent, and later it refers to stopping oneself from laughing. "禁": to control.

例句 1 看他不好意思的样子，我～，忙帮他解围。

Example 1 Seeing that he was embarrassed, I couldn't help laughing and came to his rescue.

例句 2 台上，熊猫憨态可掬的表演让大家～。

Example 2 The audience can't help laughing when watching the lovely performance of the giant panda on the stage.

近 义 哑然失笑

日复一日 rì fù yī rì

day after day

释 义 一天又一天。复：又，再。

Paraphrase One day after another. "复": again, more.

例句 1 ～的辛劳，使得母亲比同龄人看起来要老得多。

Example 1 My mother appears much older than other people of the same age because of hard wok day after day.

例句 2 ～，年复一年，老王的书法大有长进。

Example 2 Day after day and year after year, Lao Wang's handwriting improved greatly through practice.

近 义 年复一年

日新月异 rì xīn yuè yì

change with each passing day

释 义 事物天天月月都在发生变化。指发展快，而且不断出现新事物。异：不同。

Paraphrase Things are changing with each passing day. It means that things are developing quickly and new things keep emerging. “异”: different.

例句 1 北京的城市建设～，我出国仅仅一年，回来就发现处处都有变化。

Example 1 The city construction in Beijing is changing with each passing day. I have seen changes everywhere after I returned from abroad after one year’s stay.

例句 2 当今的科学技术发展～，我们必须不断学习，否则就会落后。

Example 2 The development of science and technology at present is changing with each passing day. We must keep on learning, or we’ll lag behind others.

如出一辙 rú chū yī zhé

be exactly the same

释 义 像同一个车轮压出的痕迹。比喻两件事情非常相似。辙：车轮压出的痕迹。

Paraphrase To be like ruts left by the same wheel. It means figuratively that two things are very much similar to each other. “辙”: a deep narrow track left in the ground by a wheel.

例句 1 这两部作品的风格～，看来出自同一作者。

Example 1 The styles of these two works are exactly the same. They must be written by the same author.

例句 2 他俩的答卷～，连错得都完全一样，这说明了什么问题？

Example 2 The exam papers of the two are exactly the same. They even got the same wrong answers. What does that imply?

近义 一模一样

反义 大相径庭

如此而已 rú cǐ ér yǐ

that's all; so that's all there is to it; just so-so

释义 就这样罢了。而已：罢了。

Paraphrase To be just like that. "而已": merely, only.

例句 1 你别信他的话，我的水平～，比你们差多了。

Example 1 Don't take his words seriously. That's all there is to my level of proficiency, which is much lower them yours.

例句 2 我刚和他打了几个回合，才知道所谓"武林高手"，不过～。

Example 2 I just fought with him for several rounds. Only after that did I realize that the so-called master hand of kungfu was just so-so.

如虎添翼 rú hǔ tiān yì

with might doubled

释义 好像老虎长上了翅膀。比喻强有力的人得到帮助，会变得更加强有力。翼：翅膀。

Paraphrase To be just like a tiger with wings. It means figuratively that a mighty person will become mightier with favorable help. "翼": wings.

例句 1 关羽得到了赤兔马，～。

Example 1 Guan Yu doubled his might when he got the Red Hare horse.

例句 2 我们公司能得到像您这样的人才，就会～，大展宏图。

Example 2 Our corporation will double its might and have

grand prospects with a talent like you.

反 义 虎落平阳

如获至宝 rú huò zhì bǎo

as if one has got the most valuable treasure

释 义 如同得到最好的宝物一样。形容对于所得到的东西非常喜爱。获：得到；至宝：最珍贵的东西。

Paraphrase To be as delighted as one gets the most valuable treasure. "获": get, obtain; "至宝": the most precious thing.

例句 1 在旧货市场发现了一只明代的青花瓷碗，他～。

Example 1 He was so delighted as if he had got the most valuable treasure when he found a blue and white porcelain bowl in the flea market.

例句 2 弟弟借到一套《射雕英雄传》，～，躲在屋子里看了一个通宵。

Example 2 My younger brother borrowed a set of videotapes of *The Eagle-shooting Heroes*. He was very delighted as if he had got the most valuable treasure. So he stayed overnight in his room watching them.

如释重负 rú shì zhòng fù

feel very much relieved

释 义 好像放下久负的重担一样轻松。比喻解除了负担。

Paraphrase To be relaxed as if one is relieved of a heavy load. It means figuratively that one's worries are gone.

例句 1 任务完成后，刘平顿觉～。

Example 1 Having completed his tasks, Liu Ping felt very much relieved.

例句 2 当得知母子平安时，他～，脸上终于露出了笑容。

Example 2 Being informed that both the child and the mother were safe and sound was a load off his mind. Smile finally came to his face.

如闻其声，如见其人 rú wén qí shēng, rú jiàn qí rén

as if hearing the very person's voice, as if seeing the very person

释 义 好像听见了他的声音，好像看到了那个人一样。比喻十分逼真。

Paraphrase As if one can hear the voice of the very person, as if one can see the very person. It means figuratively that the description of a person is very vivid.

例句 1 每当我读到描写王熙凤的那段话时，总有一种～的感觉。

Example 1 Whenever I read the paragraph describing Wang Xifeng, I feel as if I could hear her voice and see her.

例句 2 听了你的描述，我们～，我想她一定很可爱。

Example 2 After hearing your description, we feel as if we have heard her voice and seen her ourselves. She must be very lovely.

如鱼得水 rú yú dé shuǐ

like a duck to water

释 义 如同鱼得到了水。比喻得到对自己有利的环境或遇到和自己很投机的人。

Paraphrase Like a duck to water. It means figuratively that one is in a very favorable situation or one meets an agreeable friend.

例句 1 赵亮在新的工作岗位上～，不到半年就升任了部门经理。

Example 1 Since Zhao Liang took up his new job, he has been

like a duck to water and has become a department manager within half a year.

例句 2 小林曾经得过省花样滑冰冠军，今天一到滑冰场上，简直是～，我们看了连连叫好。

Example 2 Xiao Lin once won the provincial championship of figure skating. When she was on the skating rink today, she was like a duck to water. We applauded again and again for her wonderful skill.

反 义 英雄无用武之地

入木三分 rù mù sān fēn

penetrate well into the wood; profound and penetrating

释 义 形容书法笔力强劲。后常比喻看问题精辟、深刻。

Paraphrase (Of calligraphy) having forceful strokes. Now it often means that one's opinion or analysis is penetrating and profound.

例句 1 ～的剖析，使这篇文章被广为关注。

Example 1 The incisive analyses have drawn much attention to the article.

例句 2 鲁迅的文章思想深刻，～。

Example 2 Lu Xun's articles are profound and penetrating.

典 故 王羲之是东晋时期著名书法家。他的书法博采众长，自成一家，被誉为“书圣”。据说他每日不停地练字，即使休息时也不忘揣摩字的结构。他常常心里想着，手在衣襟上比划着，时间久了，把衣服都磨破了。有一次，王羲之把字写在木板上拿给刻字的人照着雕刻。刻字的人发现字的墨迹已经渗透到木板里面三分之深。

若无其事 ruò wú qí shì

as if nothing has happened; be calm

释 义 好像没有那么回事一样。形容遇事沉着或不把事放在

心上。

Paraphrase To take an attitude of indifference as if nothing has happened. It means one remains calm or does not care much when something important has happened.

例句 1 大家都急得要命，只有他～，真是气死人了。

Example 1 All the people there were extremely worried except him. He took an indifferent attitude as if nothing had happened. That was really annoying!

例句 2 他踢球砸坏了人家的玻璃，却还～地继续玩，真不像话！

Example 2 He kept on playing football as if nothing had happened after he broke the windowpane of others while playing. It was extremely unreasonable.

反 义 心事重重 煞有介事

弱不禁风 ruò bù jīn fēng

to be frail physically

释 义 形容身体弱，经不起风吹，一吹就倒。禁：经受。

Paraphrase It means a person is too weak physically to withstand wind and will fall down with it. "禁": to withstand.

例句 1 没想到这个～的女子竟然有如此坚强的意志。

Example 1 It's incredible that the frail lady has such a strong willpower.

例句 2 李丽以前～的，常常生病，自从参加体育锻炼以后，身体明显好多了。

Example 2 Li Li was so frail in the past that she used to frequently fall sick. Since she took up physical exercises, she has been in better health.

近 义 弱不胜衣

反 义 身强力壮

S

塞翁失马 sài wēng shī mǎ

an old frontiersman losing his horse; a blessing in disguise

释 义 现在比喻坏事不一定坏，有时孕育着变成好事的因素。

Paraphrase It means that misfortune may not be bad. It may be a blessing in disguise.

例句 1 你这次没被选上，下次也许有更好的机会，"～，焉知非福"嘛。

Example 1 Although you were not elected this time, you may have a better chance next time. Just like the saying goes: "Like an old frontiersman losing his horse, who knows? This may be a blessing in disguise."

例句 2 好事可以变成坏事，坏事也能变成好事，～就是这个道理。

Example 2 A blessing may turn out to be misfortune and vice versa. It is the same with an old frontiersman losing his horse.

近 义 因祸得福

典 故 古时边塞有一个老头丢了一匹马，别人都为他可惜，可是不久他的马又跑回来了，而且还带回来一匹骏马。大家都去祝贺，可是老人并不多快乐，说："也许是坏事呢。"后来，老人的儿子骑马玩儿，从马背上摔了下来，把腿摔折了。大家都来安慰老人，老人说："这不一定是坏事啊。"不久，战争爆发了，年轻力壮的人都被抓去当兵，儿子因为有伤没有去当兵。父子平安幸福地生活了下去。所以大家都说："别看那个边塞的老人丢了马，怎么知道它一定不是好事呢？"

三长两短 sān cháng liǎng duǎn

unexpected misfortune

释 义 指意外的灾祸、事故。长、短：意外的事故。

Paraphrase It refers to unforeseen accidents/disasters. “长”，“短”：unforeseen accidents.

例句 1 和孩子失去联系以后，母亲整日坐卧不安，恐怕孩子有个～。

Example 1 Having lost contact with her child, the mother was extremely worried every day, fearing that unexpected misfortune might happen to him.

例句 2 要是你有个～，我可怎么活啊？

Example 2 If anything untoward should happen to you, how would survive?

三顾茅庐 sān gù máo lú

make three calls at the thatched cottage; repeatedly request somebody to take up a post

释 义 诸葛亮躬耕南阳，刘备为了请他出山，三次到茅庐去拜访。后比喻诚心诚意地邀请或拜访。顾：拜访。

Paraphrase Zhuge Liang farmed in Nanyang. Liu Bei made three calls at Zhuge Liang's thatched cottage in order to get his help. It now means to invite or visit somebody sincerely. “顾”：to visit.

例句 1 新任总经理～，才把张明请出来做助理。

Example 1 Only at the newly-appointed general manager's repeated and sincere requests did Zhang Ming agree to be his assistant.

例句 2 你的架子也别太大了，人家不会～地来请你的。

Example 2 Don't be too haughty. They will not repeatedly ask you to do that.

典 故 东汉末年，刘备为了成就大业，想请博学多才的诸葛亮

出山，帮自己夺取天下。他率领关羽和张飞带着礼物前往诸葛亮的住处。恰巧诸葛亮不在家，三人扫兴而归。第二次冒着大雪去，又赶上诸葛亮闲游未归。刘备只好留下书信表明心意，张飞和关羽都很气愤，甚至想把诸葛亮抓来。刘备说服了他们，第三次又去拜请诸葛亮。这次正赶上诸葛亮睡午觉，刘备一直等到他醒来。诸葛亮被刘备的诚意和志向感动，终于答应出山，协助刘备成就大业。

三人行，必有我师 sān rén xíng, bì yǒu wǒ shī

where there are three men walking together, one of them must be qualified to be my teacher

释 义 几个人在一起走，其中必定有可以做我老师的。意思是要善于向他人学习。这句话出自《论语》。必：一定。

Paraphrase When several people are walking together, there must be someone who is qualified to be my teacher. It means we should be ready to learn from others. It is taken from *The Analects*. "必": must; sure.

例句 1 ～，你不要小看任何一个人。

Example 1 Where there are three men walking together, one of them must be qualified to be my teacher. Don't belittle anyone.

例句 2 你不要自以为是，别忘了"～"。

Example 2 Don't be so conceited. Remember "Where there are three men walking together, one of them must be qualified to be my teacher."

三十六计，走为上 sān shí liù jì, zǒu wéi shàng

of the 36 stratagems, the best is running away

释 义 处于困境时，别无良策，只有出走才可以摆脱。计：计策。

Paraphrase It means when you are in a difficult situation, you have no better choice, other than running away to escape from it.

"计": stratagem.

例句 1 ～。形势如此之糟,不如赶快逃走。

Example 1 Of the 36 stratagems, the best is running away. The situation is so bad that we'd better get away as soon as possible.

例句 2 一看情况不好,老李来了个～。

Example 2 Seeing that the situation was unfavorable, Lao Li took to his heels.

近 义 溜之大吉

三思而行 sān sī ér xíng

think thrice before you act

释 义 考虑成熟再去做。三思:再三考虑。

Paraphrase Think over and then act. "三思": think over.

例句 1 投资是件大事,你要～。

Example 1 The investment is of great importance. You must think it over.

例句 2 回国还是留在这里,关系到你今后的发展,你应该～。

Example 2 Whether to return to your homeland or to stay here really matters to your future development. You should think it over.

近 义 思前想后

反 义 轻举妄动

三天打鱼,两天晒网 sān tiān dǎ yú, liǎng tiān shài wǎng

go fishing for three days and dry the nets for two; work in fits and starts

释 义 比喻做事情没有恒心,时常中断。

Paraphrase It means that one lacks perseverance when doing something and is often interrupted.

例句 1 学习要持之以恒，不能～。

Example 1 Learning needs perseverance. Don't work in fits and starts.

例句 2 学外语贵在坚持，像你这样～可不行。

Example 2 You can never learn a foreign language well if you work in fits and starts like that. Perseverance is very important.

近 义 一曝十寒

反 义 持之以恒

三心二意 sān xīn èr yì

flit from one thing to another; with half a heart

释 义 又想这样，又想那样，形容拿不定主意或者意志不专一。

Paraphrase It means that one cannot make up his mind as to what to do or that one is half-hearted.

例句 1 学习上必须专心致志、严肃认真，～可不行。

Example 1 You must concentrate all your attention and be serious in learning. Shilly-shally will bring you nowhere.

例句 2 你女朋友那么爱你，你可别对人家～。

Example 2 Your girlfriend loves you so much. You should not treat her half-heartedly.

山清水秀 shān qīng shuǐ xiù

green hills and clear waters

释 义 形容山水风景优美。

Paraphrase It means that the scenery is very beautiful.

例句 1 我的家乡桂林是一个～的好地方。

Example 1 Guilin, my hometown, is a good place with beautiful scenery.

例句 2 北京周围有很多～的好地方值得一去，我们可别错过了。

Example 2 There are many beautiful places around Beijing with green mountains and clear waters which are worth visiting. We must not miss them.

反 义 穷山恶水

姗姗来迟 shān shān lái chí

be late; be slow in coming

释 义 慢腾腾地来晚了。姗姗：行走缓和从容的样子。

Paraphrase Coming late because of being slow. “姗姗”: slow, walking in a leisurely fashion.

例句 1 你怎么总是～？大家的时间都很宝贵。

Example 1 Why are you always so late? All our time is very precious.

例句 2 每次约会，小柳都～，她男朋友已经习惯了。

Example 2 Xiao Liu is always late when she goes on dates with her boyfriend. He has gotten used to it.

少见多怪 shǎo jiàn duō guài

be easily surprised because of ignorance

释 义 由于见识少，遇到平常的事情也觉得奇怪，多用以嘲讽孤陋寡闻。怪：奇怪。

Paraphrase With lack of knowledge and experience, one is easily surprised by ordinary things. It is usually used to satirize ignorance. “怪”: to be surprised.

例句 1 多媒体教学已经很普遍了，你真～。

Example 1 Multi-media aided teaching has been very popular nowadays. You should not feel surprised by it.

例句 2 这玩意在中国有的是，别～了。

Example 2 There are plenty of gadgets of this kind in China. There is nothing to be surprised at.

近 义 大惊小怪

反 义 见多识广 见怪不怪

典 故 从前有一个人，从来没有见过骆驼，也根本不知道世界上有骆驼这种动物。一天，他看见几只背上长着两个大肉疙瘩的骆驼，非常惊奇，不禁大叫起来："快来看哪，这几匹马怎么啦？它们的背怎么肿得那么高呀？"大家闻声赶来一看，原来是骆驼，于是都笑话他少见多怪。

舍近求远 shě jìn qiú yuǎn

seek from afar and forgo what lies close at hand

释 义 放弃近的，谋求远的。舍：放弃；求：谋求，追求。

Paraphrase To forgo what is close at hand and seek what is far afield. "舍": to give up, to ignore; "求": to seek, to pursue.

例句 1 这种东西我们这儿就有，何必～去外地找。

Example 1 We can find such things here. Why take the trouble to look for them in other places?

例句 2 学校旁边就是一个大超市，你为什么～地跑到那儿去买东西？

Example 2 There is a big supermarket near our college. Why did you go that far to buy things?

反 义 就地取材

深入浅出 shēn rù qiǎn chū

treat a difficult matter in a simple and explicit way

释 义 道理深刻而表达得浅显易懂。

Paraphrase Deep meaning but expressed to be easily understandable.

例句 1 用漫画的形式表现哲学道理，往往能收到～的效果。

Example 1 Using cartoons to illustrate philosophical principles can often express deep meaning in an easily understandable fashion.

例句 2 刘老师讲课～，特别受学生欢迎。

Example 2 Mr. Liu can explain the profound in simple terms in class and he is very popular among his students.

声东击西 shēng dōng jī xī

make a feint to the east and attack in the west

释 义 表面上假装攻打东方，实际上却攻打西方。指一种迷惑敌人、出奇制胜的战术。声：声张。

Paraphrase One pretends to launch an attack in the east but actually attacks in the west. It refers to a tactic which puzzles the enemy and brings victory through a surprise attack. “声”: to claim.

例句 1 我军采用～的战术，打得敌人四处逃窜。

Example 1 Our army defeated the enemy by adopting the tactic of “making a feint to the east and attack in the west”.

例句 2 ～是游击战中十分常见的战术。

Example 2 Making a feint to the east and attacking in the west is a common tactic in guerrilla warfare.

失而复得 shī ér fù dé

regain what is lost

释 义 失去了又得到。复：再次。

Paraphrase Get again what one has lost. “复”: again.

例句 1 幸亏有好心人帮助，我的钱包才～。

Example 1 Thanks to the help of a kind-hearted person, I re-

gained my lost wallet.

例句 2 警察抓住了盗车贼，我的自行车终于～。

Example 2 I finally got back my bicycle after the police caught the thief.

失魂落魄 shī hún luò pò

be driven to distraction; be scared out of one's wits

释 义 形容心神不宁或惊慌失措。失：丢失。

Paraphrase Be anxious and distracted or panic-stricken. "失": lose.

例句 1 妻子因车祸去世后，他整天～的，我们都为他担心。

Example 1 He has been despondent since his wife died in a traffic accident and we all worry about him.

例句 2 儿子走失后，母亲～地在街上到处寻找，希望能看见心爱的儿子。

Example 2 When her son went astray, the mother was frightened out of her wits and searched everywhere on the street.

近 义 六神无主

反 义 泰然自若

十全十美 shí quán shí měi

be perfect in every way

释 义 原指医术高明，十个病人十个都能治好。后多形容完美无缺。全、美：形容完美。

Paraphrase Originally it means one has superb medical skills and ten out of ten patients can be cured of their illnesses. Now it means being perfect and defect-free. "全","美": perfect.

例句 1 世上没有～的人。

Example 1　No one is perfect in this world.

例句 2　你找男朋友的标准也太高了。依我看，没有～的人。

Example 2　Your criteria for a boyfriend is too high. In my opinion, no one is perfect.

反 义　完美无缺

世外桃源　shì wài táo yuán

a haven of peace and happiness

释 义　一个与世隔绝、安居乐业的理想地方。多用来比喻不受外界影响的地方或理想中的美好境界。桃源：桃花源，幻想的美好地方。

Paraphrase　An ideal secluded place far away from the turmoils of the world where people can live happily and peacefully. It often refers to a place free from disturbance of the outside world or an ideal wonderful place. "桃源": Land of Peach Blossoms; an imaginary wonderful place.

例句 1　很多人都向往～的生活。

Example 1　Many people yearn for a life away from the turmoil of the world.

例句 2　暑假时我去了湖南西部的张家界，那可真是一个美丽的～。

Example 2　During summer vacation I visited Zhangjiajie in the west of the Hunan province. It is really a beautiful retreat.

典 故　东晋时，湖南武陵有一个渔人因为欣赏美景，不知不觉来到了一个叫"桃源"的地方。只见这里到处是郁郁葱葱的竹林和一簇簇的桑树，田间小路四通八达，人们在地里辛勤地劳作着，孩子们在地头田间嬉戏，远处不时传来鸡鸣狗叫的声音。渔人从交谈中得知，他们的祖先是秦朝时为了躲避战乱而来到这里的，他们竟然不知道"桃源"外已是晋朝了。渔人回去把所见所闻报告了太守。但当太守派人和他一起去寻找这块乐土时，却怎么也找不到了。

事半功倍 shì bàn gōng bèi

get twice the result with half the effort

释 义 形容费力小而收效大。倍：增倍，加倍。

Paraphrase It means although only a little effort is made, it produces marked effect. "倍": double.

例句 1 如果思路巧妙，解题时就能～。

Example 1 If you have a sound thought process, you will be highly efficient when solving a problem.

例句 2 从小培养孩子的各种良好习惯，能收到～的效果。

Example 2 To cultivate various good habits of children at an early age will produce good results with half the effort.

反 义 事倍功半

事不宜迟 shì bù yí chí

it allows no delay

释 义 事情要抓紧做，不能拖延。宜：应当；迟：推迟。

Paraphrase It demands immediate action and allows no delay. "宜": should; "迟": to delay.

例句 1 ～，我们得赶紧出发。

Example 1 There is no time to be lost. We should get going immediately.

例句 2 ～，我们必须向社会公布事情的真相。

Example 2 It allows no delay and we must tell the public the truth.

近 义 刻不容缓

事出有因 shì chū yǒu yīn

there is no smoke without fire

释 义 事情的发生是有原因的。因：原因。

Paraphrase There is always a good reason for what has happened. “因”：reasons, causes.

例句 1 你别生气，～，请你听我慢慢说。

Example 1 Don't be angry. There is no smoke without fire. Please listen to me patiently.

例句 2 研讨会上，平常爱发表意见的小李一言不发，低头不语，一定～。

Example 2 In the seminar Xiao Li, who was usually active in expressing his opinions, drooped his head and kept silent. There must be a good reason for it.

反 义 无缘无故

事在人为 shì zài rén wéi

human effort is the decisive factor

释 义 事情的成败全在于人的主观努力。为：做。

Paraphrase Everything depends on human effort. “为”：to do.

例句 1 这次训练难度不小，但～，只要沉着应对，一定能发挥出最佳水平。

Example 1 This training is fairly difficult. But human effort is the decisive factor. If you face it calmly, you can surely excel yourself.

例句 2 ～，你不要灰心，下次还有机会。

Example 2 Everything depends on human effort. Don't be discouraged. You still have another chance.

近 义 谋事在人

反 义 听天由命

视而不见 shì ér bù jiàn

turn a blind eye to sb. /sth.

释 义 看了同没有看见一样。形容不关心,不在意。

Paraphrase One takes no notice of somebody or something even if one sees them. It means that one doesn't care about somebody or something.

例句 1 一位孕妇上了车,很多年轻人～,倒是一个老人给她让了座,真让人心寒啊。

Example 1 When a pregnant woman got on the bus, many young people turned a blind eye to her. However, an old man offered his seat to her. What happened was really disappointing.

例句 2 你怎么能对老人的困难～呢?

Example 2 How can you turn a blind eye to the difficulties of the old man?

适得其反 shì dé qí fǎn

be exactly contrary to what one wished

释 义 恰恰得到相反的结果。适:恰恰。

Paraphrase Produce exactly the opposite result. "适": just the right.

例句 1 他以为喝酒能解忧愁,结果～,真是"借酒消愁愁更愁"啊。

Example 1 He wished to drown his sorrows in liquor. But it turned out to be backfiring. He got even more depressed.

例句 2 很多父母望子成龙,连周末都让孩子整天学习,结果～。

Example 2 Many parents hope to see their children succeed in their life and even force them to study on weekends. However, the result is just counter-productive.

近 义 事与愿违

反 义　如愿以偿

适可而止　shì kě ér zhǐ

go just as far as propriety requires

释 义　做到适当程度就停下来，不要过头。止：停止。

Paraphrase　Stop before going too far; not overdo something. “止”: to stop.

例句 1　对孩子的宠爱要～。

Example 1　The love given to children should be kept within proper bounds.

例句 2　运动不能过量，如不～，就会得不偿失。

Example 2　Physical exercises should be kept within proper bounds. Otherwise the loss will outweigh the gain.

手忙脚乱　shǒu máng jiǎo luàn

be in a rush / flurry

释 义　形容做事慌慌张张，没有条理。忙：忙乱。

Paraphrase　One is in a rush when doing something and can't do it orderly. “忙”: in a hurry and confused.

例句 1　小明起晚了，～地找袜子，找了半天没找到。

Example 1　Xiaoming got up late and looked for his socks in a great hurry but failed.

例句 2　这么大的人了，怎么老～的？

Example 2　Why are you always in a great hurry? You are no longer a child.

近 义　惊慌失措

反 义　从容不迫

手舞足蹈 shǒu wǔ zú dǎo

dance for joy

释 义 两手舞动，两只脚也跳了起来。形容喜悦到极点的样子。舞：跳舞。

Paraphrase Moving both hands, both feet dancing. It means that one is extremely happy. “舞”: to dance.

例句 1 看他～的样子，一定有什么高兴的事。

Example 1 Something pleasant must have happened because he is dancing for joy.

例句 2 大家都猜不出的谜语被小王猜了出来，他不禁～起来。

Example 2 Xiao Wang was beside himself with joy when he solved the riddle whilst everyone else couldn't.

反 义 闷闷不乐

守口如瓶 shǒu kǒu rú píng

keep one's mouth shut

释 义 闭口不说，像瓶口塞紧了一样。形容说话谨慎或严守秘密。如：像。

Paraphrase Keep one's mouth shut just like a bottle that is tightly corked. It means that one is cautious about one's words or that one keeps a secret. “如”: like.

例句 1 你得发誓，对于这件事一定要～。

Example 1 You must promise that you will keep your mouth shut about it.

例句 2 这件事你必须～，如果让别人知道了会很危险。

Example 2 You must keep the secret. It is very dangerous if someone else finds out.

守株待兔 shǒu zhū dài tù

stand by a tree stump waiting for a hare to come and dash itself against it; wait foolishly for a most unlikely windfall

释 义 比喻死守经验,不知变通。株:树桩。

Paraphrase It means one sticks to his experience and is not flexible. "株": a tree stump.

例句 1 我们不能~,应该主动出击。

Example 1 Instead of waiting passively, we should take the initiative to attack.

例句 2 他每天在这~,后来又碰到过那个美女吗?

Example 2 Every day he waited here. Did he ever meet that beauty again?

典 故 宋国有一个农夫正在田间劳作,忽然看见一只兔子惊慌地从地里窜过,恰巧撞在一个树桩上,脖子被撞断,死了。农夫赶忙把兔子拣了起来,心想:要是以后天天都能遇到这样的事,那该有多好。从此,他活儿也不干了,天天守着那个树桩。结果,兔子没有拣到,他的庄稼却荒了。

书香门第 shū xiāng mén dì

a family of intellectuals

释 义 指世代都是读书人的家庭。门第:指家族或家庭的社会地位。

Paraphrase A family of scholars for generations. "门第": family status.

例句 1 她出身于~。

Example 1 She comes from a family of scholars.

例句 2 出身于~的人,应该知书达理,可是从她身上我怎么也看不出来。

Example 2 People coming from families of intellectuals should

be well-educated and show a good sense of judgement. However, I can perceive none of that from her.

熟能生巧 shú néng shēng qiǎo

practice makes perfect

释 义 熟练了就能掌握技巧。熟：熟练；巧：技巧。

Paraphrase Skills come from practice. “熟”: proficient; “巧”: skills.

例句 1 编中国结并不难，～。

Example 1 It's not very difficult to knit a traditional Chinese Knot. Practice makes perfect.

例句 2 开车是～的事，其实一点儿也不难。

Example 2 As to driving, practice makes perfect. It's not difficult at all.

水滴石穿 shuǐ dī shí chuān

constant dripping wears the stone

释 义 滴水可使石头穿透。比喻只要坚持不懈，微小的力量也能成功。也说滴水穿石。

Paraphrase Constant drops of water can penetrate the stone. Metaphorically it means little effort can also lead to success with perseverance. Also written as “滴水穿石”.

例句 1 只要有毅力，坚持下去就一定有好结果，～嘛！

Example 1 So long as you are perseverant and keep at it, you will have a good result. As you know, constant dripping wears the stone.

例句 2 要成为太极高手需要长时间的锻炼，没有～的功夫是不可能的。

Example 2 To be a master hand of Taiji requires long period of

training. It's impossible without painstaking and patient effort like constant drops of water that wear the stone.

近义 磨杵成针

典故 宋朝有一个县令名叫张乖崖。一天，他看见一个管理钱库的库吏从钱库里出来时，顺手把一文钱装进了自己的口袋，于是便把那个库吏叫来查问。库吏爽快地承认那一文钱是钱库里的，认为没什么大不了的。张乖崖要责打他，他很不服气。于是张乖崖提笔在案卷上写道："一日一钱，千日一千。绳锯木断，水滴石穿。"那个库吏还想狡辩，张乖崖一气之下就把他杀了。

水火不相容 shuǐ huǒ bù xiāng róng

be utterly incompatible (as fire and water)

释义 水与火不能相容。比喻双方根本对立，不能相容。容：容纳。

Paraphrase Fire and water are not compatible. It means two sides are opposite and not compatible. "容": contain.

例句 1 你别指望我能劝动他，我们俩～。

Example 1 Don't expect that I can persuade him. We are incompatible with each other.

例句 2 他们俩的性格～，碰到一起就吵个没完没了。

Example 2 They have incompatible characters. Whenever they meet each other, they will quarrel endlessly.

水落石出 shuǐ luò shí chū

everything comes to light

释义 水落下，石头就露出来。后比喻事情真相大白。落：落下；出：出来。

Paraphrase Stones appear as the water ebbs. Now it means the

truth of something is finally revealed. “落”: to ebb; “出”: to appear.

例句 1 你不要急，这件事情就要～了。

Example 1 Don't hurry. The whole thing is going to come to light soon.

例句 2 明天见到小赵，这事情就会～。

Example 2 When you see Xiao Zhao tomorrow, the whole thing will be clear.

近 义 真相大白

反 义 雾里看花

典 故 几个衣衫褴褛的兄弟为生活所迫，流落他乡，后来遇到了一位好心的女主人替他们缝补衣服。女主人的丈夫见妻子为别的男人缝补衣服，起了疑心，便站在门口斜着眼睛看妻子在干什么。女主人看见了，坦然地说：“夫君啊，你不用这样斜眼看我，我对这些人的帮助是光明磊落的，就像水里的石头那样，等水落了，石头就会看得清清楚楚了。”

水中捞月 shuǐ zhōng lāo yuè

strive for the impossible

释 义 想捞出水里的月亮。比喻做根本做不到的事，白费力气，毫无成果。

Paraphrase To try to fish out the moon from the water. It means when one tries to do what is impossible and his effort is futile.

例句 1 明眼人都能看出这是一件～、毫无结果的事情。

Example 1 Anyone of good sense can see that this is trying to fish out the moon from the water and will come to nothing.

例句 2 你这样做只能是～，白费力气。

Example 2 You are just striving for the impossible and wasting your energy doing that.

顺理成章 shùn lǐ chéng zhāng

write with good arrangement; follow as a matter of course

释义 指写作顺着条理，自成章法。亦指某种情况合乎情理，自然会产生某种结果。理：条理；章：章法。

Paraphrase It means if you write with good reasoning, you will produce a well-organized article. It also means that a reasonable condition will naturally lead to a certain result. "理": reasoning, logic; "章": organization.

例句 1 确定鲜明的立意，完整的结构，加上好的素材，下笔时就能～。

Example 1 With a clear conception, a complete structure and good supporting details, you will produce a good article.

例句 2 他考试作弊，被学校开除是～的事情。

Example 2 His expulsion from school for cheating in the examination was a matter of course.

四通八达 sì tōng bā dá

provide easy access from all directions

释义 形容畅通无阻。通：畅通。

Paraphrase Have a good transport and communication network. "通": easily accessible.

例句 1 立交桥建成后，这里的道路～。

Example 1 When the overpass is completed, the roads here will provide easy access from all directions.

例句 2 北京的高速公路～，去哪儿都很方便。

Example 2 The expressways in Beijing provide easy access to wherever you want to go.

T

昙花一现 tán huā yī xiàn

last as briefly as the broad-leaved epiphyllum flower

释 义 昙花刚一开放，很快就凋谢了。比喻某种事物或人物出现了一下，很快就消逝了。昙花：花美而香，不常开，多在夜间开放，而且开放时间极短。

Paraphrase The epiphyllum flower opens and fades quickly. It means something or someone appears for a short period of time and then disappears soon. "昙花": it blooms rarely, its flowers are beautiful and fragrant, often opening at night for a short time.

例句 1 很多流行歌手都是～，过不了多久就没有人再提起他们了。

Example 1 Many pop singers are one hit wonders. No one mentions them after a short period of time.

例句 2 好的文学作品不会只是～，一定能够经受时间的考验，《红楼梦》就是一个很好的例子。

Example 2 Great literary works will not last as briefly as epiphyllum and can withstand the test of time. *A Dream of Red Mansions* is a very good example.

谈虎色变 tán hǔ sè biàn

get anxious at the mention of something terrifying

释 义 一谈起老虎就吓得变了脸色。比喻提到可怕的事情就情绪紧张起来。色：脸色。

Paraphrase One turns pale at the mere mention of a tiger. It

means one is anxious at the mention of something terrifying. “色”: complexion; face.

例句 1 “非典”期间，一听说有人发烧，大家就有点儿～。

Example 1 During the SARS Period, everybody would get anxious when hearing that someone had gotten fever.

例句 2 肺结核早就有医治的办法了，你用不着～。

Example 2 Tuberculosis has been curable for quite a long time. Don't be frightened by it.

近 义 闻风丧胆

谈笑风生 tán xiào fēng shēng

talk and laugh cheerfully

释 义 形容谈话兴致高，气氛活跃。风：风趣。

Paraphrase It means people who are having the conversation are in high spirits and the atmosphere is lively. “风”: humor, wit.

例句 1 多年未见的老同学聚在一起，～。

Example 1 Having not seen one another for years, these old classmates gathered together and talked with each other excitedly.

例句 2 宾主相见，～，双方共同畅想宏伟蓝图。

Example 2 When the host and the guest met each other, they talked cheerfully, giving free rein to their great plans.

忐忑不安 tǎn tè bù ān

fidgety; anxious and fearful

释 义 心里安定不下来。忐忑：心神不定。

Paraphrase The feeling of uneasiness. “忐忑”: mentally disturbed.

例句 1 见岳父岳母前一天，王峰心里一直～的。

Example 1 The day before meeting his parents-in-law, Wang Feng couldn't get rid of the feeling of anxiety.

例句 2 小明打碎了妈妈心爱的花瓶，心里～。

Example 2 Xiaoming felt greatly uneasy because he broke his mother's favorite vase.

近 义 惴惴不安

反 义 心安理得

螳螂捕蝉，黄雀在后 táng láng bǔ chán, huáng què zài hòu

covet gains ahead, unaware of the danger behind

释 义 螳螂准备捕食蝉的时候，不知道黄雀在它身后等着。比喻目光短浅的人只能看到眼前利益，却不知祸患就在后面。捕：捕食。

Paraphrase The mantis stalks the cicada, not knowing that the oriole is lurking behind. It means that short-sighted people only pay attention to the benefits ahead, but they are unaware of the danger that is lurking just behind. "捕": to catch.

例句 1 ～，正在享受美味的梅花鹿还不知道早就有只狮子等在它的身后了。

Example 1 "The mantis stalks the cicada, not knowing that the oriole is lurking behind." When the deer was enjoying delicious food, it didn't know that a lion had already been waiting behind it.

例句 2 小偷得手后正在得意，哪知～，警察已将他的作案过程全部录像，只等收网。

Example 2 When the thief was content with his success, he did not know danger is coming. The whole process of his crime had been videotaped by the police who were going to take action against him.

典 故 一只知了在树上饮露水，却不知道身后正有一只饿极了

的螳螂弯着身子准备捕食它，而螳螂的身后有一只黄雀在高处已经注意它们好久了，与此同时，一个人正拿着弹弓瞄准黄雀呢。它们都一心一意想着眼前的利益，却没有顾及后面的祸患。

滔滔不绝 tāo tāo bù jué

pour out words in a steady flow

释 义 形容说话很多，连续不断。滔滔：大水流动的样子，形容连续不断；绝：完结。

Paraphrase It means one is very talkative and speaks unceasingly. "滔滔": it refers to the way a large amount of water flows, it means a constant flow of sth.; "绝": to end.

例句 1 王飞是个武侠小说迷，一谈起金庸小说就～。

Example 1 Extremely interested in Kungfu novels, Wang Fei will speak unceasingly at the mention of novels written by Jin Yong.

例句 2 刚才还～的，现在怎么忽然哑巴了？

Example 2 You were very talkative just now. Why are you suddenly so quiet?

近 义 口若悬河

反 义 缄默不语

天翻地覆 tiān fān dì fù

heaven and earth turning upside down

释 义 形容变化极大。有时也比喻闹得很凶，秩序大乱。

Paraphrase It means tremendous changes have taken place. Sometimes it means total disorder, social or political upheavals.

例句 1 改革开放以来，中国人民的生活发生了～的变化。

Example 1 Since the adoption of the Reform and Opening policy, tremendous changes have taken place in Chinese people's life.

例句 2 这家人最近怎么了，吵得～的。

Example 2 What has been wrong with that family recently? Their quarrels almost turn the house upside down.

桃李满天下 táo lǐ mǎn tiān xià

(of a master or teacher) have pupils / disciples everywhere

释 义 比喻推荐的人才或者培养的学生极多，各地都有。桃李：比喻所培养的人才或所教的学生。

Paraphrase It means one have recommended many talents or taught many students and they work in various places in the world. "桃李"：this refers to talents recommended or students taught.

例句 1 北大创立一百多年来，培养的学生～。

Example 1 Since its establishment more than 100 years ago, Peking University has developed many students now working everywhere in the world.

例句 2 刘老师当了四十多年对外汉语教师，她的学生～，遍及世界四十多个国家。

Example 2 Ms. Liu has been a teacher who teaches Chinese to foreigners for more than 40 years and her students spread over more than 40 countries in the world.

天壤之别 tiān rǎng zhī bié

as far apart as heaven and earth

释 义 天和地的差别。形容差距极大。天：天上；壤：地下。

Paraphrase The difference between heaven and earth. It means a great difference. "天"：the heaven; " 壤"：the earth.

例句 1 改革之后，这里农民的收入与从前有了～。

Example 1 There is a world of difference between the incomes of farmers here before and after the reform.

例句 2　虽说他们都是 IT 工程师，可他们的技术水平却有着～。

Example 2　Although they are all IT engineers, yet there is a world of difference between their levels of technical expertise.

天网恢恢，疏而不漏　tiān wǎng huī huī, shū ér bù lòu

god's justice is inescapable

释　义　天道如宽阔的大网，看起来稀疏，却不会有遗漏。后形容做坏事的人不能逃脱法律的制裁。天网：天道之网，指自然的惩罚；恢恢：宽广的样子。

Paraphrase　The net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through. Now it means the wrongdoers will inevitably be punished by law. "天网": the net of Heaven, it refers to punishment of the nature; "恢恢": wide.

例句 1　～，任何犯罪分子都逃不过法律的严惩。

Example 1　The net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through. No criminals will get away from the severe punishment of the law.

例句 2　逃犯以为自己隐蔽得很好，殊不知～，不到两天，他就被警察抓获。

Example 2　The escaped criminal had thought that he was in perfect concealment. However, the net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through. He was caught by the police within two days.

天涯海角　tiān yá hǎi jiǎo

faraway places; remotest corners of the world

释　义　天的边际，海的角落。形容极遥远偏僻的地方。涯：边际。

Paraphrase　The boundaries of the sky and the corners of the

sea. It refers to extremely far away places. “涯”: boundaries.

例句 1 他就是跑到～，也逃脱不了法律的制裁。

Example 1 Even if he had fled to the ends of the earth, he would not get away from the punishment of the law.

例句 2 为了心爱的人，就是去～，我也不后悔。

Example 2 I would not regret even if I should go to the remotest corners of the world for the one I love.

天真烂漫 tiān zhēn làn màn

innocent and artless; simple and unaffected

释 义 指纯真自然，无虚伪做作。天真：单纯直率，不做作；烂漫：坦率，自然。

Paraphrase It means that one is innocent and not fake. “天真”: simple, straightforward and unaffected; “烂漫”: frank and natural.

例句 1 面对这群～的孩子，我的心好像也年轻起来。

Example 1 Facing the group of innocent children, I feel as if I were young again in my mind.

例句 2 看着她～的笑脸，我不忍心把这个坏消息告诉她。

Example 2 Looking at her innocent smiling face, I do not have the heart to tell her the bad news.

近 义 天真无邪

甜言蜜语 tián yán mì yǔ

sweet words and honeyed phrases

释 义 为了达到讨好或哄骗人的目的而说的让人爱听的好话。

Paraphrase It refers to pleasant words that are said in order to flatter or coax others.

例句 1 他为了追求小梅，说尽了～。

Example 1 In order to court Xiaomei, he pours out all his honeyed words to her.

例句 2 我天生嘴笨，不会说什么～，请看我的行动吧。

Example 2 I'm clumsy in speaking and not good at saying sweet words. Please see what I will do in the future.

亭亭玉立 tíng tíng yù lì

tall, slim and graceful

释义 形容女子身材修长秀美。也形容花木挺拔。亭亭：高耸的样子；玉立：修长而美丽。

Paraphrase Used to describe a girl who is tall, slim and graceful. It is also used to describe tall and straight flowers, trees, etc. “亭亭”: tall; “玉立”: slim and graceful.

例句 1 练过芭蕾的女孩子身材就是好，～的，吸引了很多人的目光。

Example 1 Girls who have practised ballet have slender figures and attract many people's attention.

例句 2 几年不见，小莉已经长成了～的大姑娘。

Example 2 Having not seen Xiaoli for several years, I found that she has bloomed into a tall and graceful young lady.

通情达理 tōng qíng dá lǐ

be understanding and reasonable; show good sense

释义 指说话、做事很讲情理。通、达：透彻地理解。

Paraphrase It means one shows understanding and reasonable in words and action. “通”,“达”: to understand thoroughly.

例句 1 她是个～的人，常常为别人着想，从不斤斤计较。

Example 1 She is very reasonable and considerate, and she never haggles over every ounce.

例句 2 老李非常～，只要你把事情解释清楚，她是不会难为你的。

Example 2 Lao Li is very reasonable. So long as you explain it clearly, she will not make things awkward for you.

反 义 不可理喻

通俗易懂 tōng sú yì dǒng

easy to understand

释 义 适合大众水平，能为大部分人接受。易：容易。

Paraphrase Suitable for everyone and can be accepted by the majority. "易": easy.

例句 1 经过翻译，这些古代寓言故事变得～了。

Example 1 These ancient fables has become easier to understand after translation.

例句 2 少儿科普读物应该～，才能为广大少年儿童所喜爱。

Example 2 Popular science books for children should be easy to understand in order to appeal to all children.

同病相怜 tóng bìng xiāng lián

those who have the same illness sympathize with each other

释 义 比喻有相同遭遇的人互相同情。怜：同情。

Paraphrase It figuratively means fellow sufferers have mutual sympathy. "怜": to have sympathy.

例句 1 大李和老张下岗后，两人～，经常在一块儿喝酒。

Example 1 When Da Li and Lao Zhang were laid off from their work, as fellow sufferers, they often had a drink together.

例句 2 中秋之夜，两个单身汉～，借酒消愁。

Example 2 On the evening of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the

two singletons sympathized with each other and tried to drown their troubles in liquor.

典 故 古时候,有个姓张的人打了一张十分漂亮的床。为了展示自己的新床,他躺在床上装病。亲朋好友来看望他时,看到漂亮的新床,自然少不了夸赞一番。其中有个姓尤的亲戚,穿了一双新袜子,也想在众人面前显示,所以进屋时故意把裤管挽得很高。他坐在床边,把腿架起来,露出漂亮的袜子,然后问姓张的:"您究竟得的是什么病啊?"姓张的看了他一眼,哈哈大笑,说:"我和你的病是一样的啊!"

同甘共苦 tóng gān gòng kǔ

share weal and woe; share comforts and hardships; share joys and sorrows

释 义 有快乐共同分享,有苦难共同承担。

Paraphrase People share their happiness and difficulties.

例句 1 我们是～的好朋友。

Example 1 We are good friends sharing weal and woe.

例句 2 部队官兵～几十天,终于完成了任务。

Example 2 The officers and soldiers shared comforts and hardships together and completed their task after several days of hard-work.

同舟共济 tóng zhōu gòng jì

cross a river in the same boat

释 义 同乘一条船过河。比喻齐心协力渡过难关。济:渡,过河。

Paraphrase Cross a river in the same boat. It metaphorically means people unite together as a whole to overcome difficulties. "济": to cross a river.

例句 1 在困难的时候大家一定要～,互相支持。

Example 1 In times of trouble we must pull together and help each other.

例句 2 我们是～的好朋友，患难中的情意最珍贵。

Example 2 We are friends who have overcome difficulties with joint effort in face of hardship. Friendship in adversity is most precious.

W

外柔内刚 wài róu nèi gāng

soft outside but firm inside

释 义 外表柔顺，内心却很刚强。柔：柔顺；刚：刚强。

Paraphrase (Of a person) outwardly gentle but inwardly firm "柔": gentle; "刚": firm.

例句 1 别看她外表柔弱，其实她是个～的人。

Example 1 Although she is gentle on the outside, in fact she has a firm mind.

例句 2 这个女子～，并不像你想象的那样软弱可欺。

Example 2 The lady is outwardly gentle but inwardly firm. She is not weak and open to bullying as you think.

完璧归赵 wán bì guī zhào

return the jade intact to the State of Zhao

释 义 比喻把原物完好地归还原主。也作"原璧归赵"。完：完整，完好；璧：圆形、扁平、中心有孔的玉。

Paraphrase It figuratively means to return something to its owner in perfect condition. "完": intact, perfect; "璧": jade that is round and flat with a hole in the center.

例句 1 这些东西我用过之后一定～，请放心。

Example 1 I will return these things intact after using them. Please don't worry.

例句 2 这是你的那套《二十四史》，我现在～。

Example 2 Here are your *Twenty-Four Books of History*.

Now I return them to you intact.

近 义 物归原主

典 故 战国时，赵国得到楚国和氏璧。秦昭王声称要用十五座城换赵国的和氏璧，赵国不敢抗拒，但又怕上当。这时蔺相如自告奋勇，愿到秦国献璧。蔺相如到秦国后，见秦王并无诚意，就凭着勇敢和机智，把和氏璧完好地带回了赵国。

婉言谢绝 wǎn yán xiè jué

refuse politely; decline politely

释 义 用委婉的话加以拒绝。婉：婉转，委婉；谢绝：推辞。

Paraphrase To refuse with gentle words or tactful expressions. "婉": mild and roundabout, tactful; 谢绝: refuse.

例句 1 她～了某著名电影导演的邀请。

Example 1 She politely refused the invitation of a famous movie director.

例句 2 王风要送给厂长的孩子一部玩具跑车，被厂长～了。

Example 2 Wang Feng's offer to send a sports toy car to the child of the factory director was politely declined by the director.

万念俱灰 wàn niàn jù huī

be in total despair

释 义 一切念头都破灭了。形容失意或遭受沉重打击后极端失望的心情。念：念头，想法；俱：都；灰：消沉失望。

Paraphrase All hopes are dashed to pieces. It refers to the extreme disappointment or despair when one is frustrated. "念": idea, aspiration, hope; "俱": all; "灰": disheartened.

例句 1 一连去了几家公司面试都未被录用，李晶～。

Example 1 Li Jing was in total despair because she was still

not employed after several job interviews.

例句 2 接连遭受事业和感情的打击，他～。

Example 2 He was in total despair after he got a series of heavy blows both in his career and in love.

反 义 雄心勃勃

万事俱备，只欠东风 wàn shì jù bèi，zhǐ qiàn dōng fēng

everything else is ready and all we need is an east wind

释 义 比喻什么东西都准备好了，只差最后一个重要条件。俱：全，都；欠：缺。

Paraphrase All is ready except what is crucial. “俱”：all；“欠”：to lack.

例句 1 野餐用的东西都准备好了，我们现在是“～”，只要王师傅把车开来，我们就可以出发了。

Example 1 Everthing needed for the picnic is ready. So now everything is ready and all we need is an east wind. When Mr. Wang drives the car here, we'll be able to set out.

例句 2 现在～，新年钟声一响，我们就下饺子。

Example 2 Now everything else is ready and all we need is an east wind. When the bell for the New Year rings, we'll put the dumplings into the boiling water.

典 故 三国赤壁之战，周瑜定下用火攻破曹之计，一切均已准备妥当，但时值隆冬，缺少东南风，周瑜焦急得病。诸葛亮探望周瑜，写下十六个字，道出了他的病因：“欲破曹公，宜用火攻，万事俱备，只欠东风。”

万无一失 wàn wú yī shī

no danger of anything going wrong

释义 绝对不会出差错。失：失误，差错。

Paraphrase Nothing will go wrong. "失": mistake.

例句 1 放心吧，这次计划很周密，～！

Example 1 Rest assured! The plan is well-conceived and nothing will go wrong.

例句 2 这次卫星发射的准备工作一定要做好，确保～。

Example 2 The preparatory work for the launch of the satellite must be done perfectly in order to make sure that there is no danger of anything going wrong.

万象更新 wàn xiàng gēng xīn

all things take on a new look

释义 指一切景象都改变了，而且出现了新面貌。又作"万物更新"。万象：一切景象；更(不读 gèng)：改变，改换。

Paraphrase All things have changed and taken on a new look. "万象": all things; "更"(not pronounced "gèng"): to change, to become.

例句 1 新年到来，～。

Example 1 With the coming of the New Year, all things take on a new look.

例句 2 新春伊始，百花争艳，～。

Example 2 At the very beginning of spring, flowers are blooming in all their beauty and everything takes on a new look.

近义 焕然一新

反义 依然如故

亡羊补牢 wáng yáng bǔ láo

mend the fold after the sheep is lost

释 义 丢失了羊后，赶快修补羊圈。比喻事情出了差错后，及时设法补救，避免更大的损失。亡：丢失；牢：牲口圈。

Paraphrase When the sheep is lost, the fold should be mended as soon as possible. It means figuratively that when something goes wrong, one should try to make up for it in order to avoid further loss. "亡": lost; "牢": fold, pen.

例句 1 虽然我们输掉了这场棒球，但～，为时不晚，我们要好好总结一下。

Example 1 Although we lost the baseball match, but it's never too late to mend. We should draw good lessons from it.

例句 2 你快去告诉他，～，或许还能避免更大的损失。

Example 2 You should go immediately to tell him that if he mend the fold after the sheep is lost he may avoid further loss.

反 义 江心补漏

典 故 战国时，楚襄王不理国家大事，总是和四个大臣吃喝玩乐。有个叫庄辛的大臣提醒楚王，这样下去楚国会灭亡。楚王不听，庄辛只好请求去赵国躲避一下。五个月后，秦国派兵攻楚，襄王被迫流亡，这才想起庄辛的话，赶紧派人把庄辛请回来，问他应该怎么办。庄辛说："俗话说见到兔子才想起猎犬，还不算晚；羊跑掉了才来修补羊圈，也不算迟。"他为楚王分析了形势，并出谋划策，楚王觉得他说的都很有道理，于是封他为阳陵君。

忘恩负义 wàng ēn fù yì

devoid of all gratitude

释 义 忘记别人对自己的恩惠，反而做出对不起别人的事。恩：恩惠；负：辜负，背弃。

Paraphrase Forget somebody's favor and turn one's back on him in return. "恩": favor, benefaction; "负": to let down, to be unworthy of.

例句 1 他帮助过我，我怎能～？

Example 1 He once helped me. How can I be devoid of all gratitude?

例句 2 农夫救了冻僵的蛇，可是那条蛇～，醒来之后立刻把农夫咬死了。

Example 2 The farmer saved the frozen snake. However, the snake was ungrateful and it bit the farmer to death immediately after it came to life.

近 义 背信弃义 过河拆桥

反 义 饮水思源

忘乎所以 wàng hū suǒ yǐ

be carried away by one's success or joy

释 义 指得意忘形到了极点。

Paraphrase Be carried away by one's success or joy.

例句 1 买到了苦苦寻找的 DVD，他高兴得～。

Example 1 When he finally bought the DVD that he had taken pains to find, he was beside himself with joy.

例句 2 你别因为听了几句好话就～。

Example 2 Don't be carried away just because of some nice words.

近 义 得意忘形

望尘莫及 wàng chén mò jí

too far behind to catch up with

释 义 看着前面的人马行进中扬起的尘土却追赶不上。比喻远远落后。莫：不能；及：赶上。

Paraphrase One is so far behind that he can only see the dust of the

rider ahead and can not catch up. "莫": unable;"及": catch up.

例句 1 他的外语水平极高,我~。

Example 1 He is very good at foreign languages, I am far behind and can not catch up with him.

例句 2 老舍的作品无论从语言还是艺术技巧上,都令人~。

Example 2 The writings of Lao She leave us far behind in both its language and its artistic techniques.

近 义 不可企及

反 义 望其项背

望而却步 wàng ér què bù

shrink at the sight of (something dangerous or difficult)

释 义 形容遇到危险或困难就往后退缩。却步:不敢前进,往后倒退。

Paraphrase It means one moves back when he faces danger or difficulties. "却步": to move back and dare not advance.

例句 1 他把佛教讲得玄而又玄,令我~。

Example 1 He talks about Buddhism in such an incredible way that I have to stand back in awe.

例句 2 面对这位坚强的母亲,连死神也~。

Example 2 Before the strong-minded mother, even death shrank back at the sight of her.

近 义 望而生畏

反 义 无所畏惧 知难而进

望子成龙 wàng zǐ chéng lóng

long to see one's son become a dragon—long to see one's son

succeed in life

释义 希望儿子能成为出人头地的大人物。望：盼望；龙：古代传说中能兴云作雨的神异动物，比喻俊杰。

Paraphrase Hope one's son will be a celebrity in the future. "望": to wish, to hope; "龙": a mythical animal in ancient Chinese legends which can bring clouds and rain and figuratively it refers to a person of outstanding talent.

例句 1 ～是家长们的普遍心态。

Example 1 To see their sons have a bright future is the common wish of many parents.

例句 2 很多家长～心切，给孩子报这个班、那个班，使孩子疲惫不堪，结果适得其反。

Example 2 Many parents long to see their children achieve success in the world. They enroll their children in various training classes and the children are quite exhausted. The result is just counterproductive.

微不足道 wēi bù zú dào

too trivial or insignificant to mention; insignificant

释义 小得不值一提。微：非常小；道：说。

Paraphrase Too trivial to mention. "微": trivial; "道": to mention.

例句 1 这是～的小事，别再提它了。

Example 1 It's of no significance. Don't mention it any more.

例句 2 这次成功是大家努力的结果，我做的那一点点实在～。

Example 2 The success owes to the joint effort of everyone. What I have done is too trivial to mention.

娓娓动听　wěi wěi dòng tīng

(of speech or talk) interesting and pleasing; pleasant to the ear

释义　善于讲话，使人喜欢听。娓娓：形容说话动听。

Paraphrase　One is good at speech or talk and his words are pleasant to the ear. "娓娓": (of speech or talk) pleasing.

例句 1　沈老师的故事讲得～，我们听得都入了神。

Example 1　The story Mr. Shen was telling was so interesting and pleasing that we were all absorbed in it.

例句 2　我讲故事不像小方～，你们还是让他讲吧。

Example 2　Xiaofang tells stories in a more interesting way than me. You'd better ask him to tell the story.

近义　绘声绘色

反义　不堪入耳

未雨绸缪　wèi yǔ chóu móu

repair the house before it rains—take preventive measures

释义　趁着还没下雨先修缮房屋门窗。比喻事先做好准备工作。绸缪：用绳索缠捆，引申为修补。

Paraphrase　The house should be repaired before it rains. It means figuratively that preventive measures should be taken in advance. "绸缪": to bind or tie with ropes, its extended meaning is to repair.

例句 1　幸亏他们～，在汛期之前做好了防汛准备，否则后果不堪设想。

Example 1　Fortunately they took preventive measures in advance and made good preparations for flood prevention before the flood season. Otherwise, the consequence would have been inconceivable.

例句 2 我看咱们应该～，提前做好准备。

Example 2 In my opinion we should take precautions and be well-prepared in advance.

近 义 防患未然

反 义 临渴掘井

文房四宝 wén fáng sì bǎo

four treasures of the study

释 义 指书房中必备的笔、墨、纸、砚四种文具。

Paraphrase It refers to the four indispensable stationery products in a traditional Chinese study. They are the writing brush, the ink stick, the ink slab and paper.

例句 1 靠窗的大书案上，陈列着～。

Example 1 On the big writing desk beside the window are the four treasures of the study.

例句 2 很多爱好中国文化的外国人都对～感兴趣。

Example 2 Many foreigners who love Chinese culture are interested in the four treasures of the study.

无病呻吟 wú bìng shēn yín

moan and groan without being ill

释 义 指没有病却装出有病的神态哼哼不停。比喻为不值得忧虑的事而长吁短叹，也比喻诗文没有真实情感，矫揉造作，故弄文雅。呻吟：病痛时发出低吟声。

Paraphrase One pretends to be ill and groans endlessly. It means figuratively that one sighs and groans without real worries. It also means that one's writing is affected and fake with no true feelings about life. “呻吟”: moan and groan.

例句 1 写文章如果没有真情实感，就只能～。

Example 1 In writing, if the writer has no true feelings about anything, he can do nothing except adopt a sentimental pose.

例句 2 这首诗完全是～，怎么能发表？

Example 2 The poem is simply adopting a sentimental pose. How can it be published?

无动于衷 wú dòng yú zhōng

aloof and indifferent; unconcerned

释 义 指对令人感动、触动的事毫不感动、触动，对应该关心的事情毫不关心。衷：内心。

Paraphrase One is not influenced by something that is moving and touching or one is indifferent to what he should care about. “衷”: heart.

例句 1 大家都很感动，只有他～。

Example 1 All the people are deeply moved except him, who takes on an indifferent attitude.

例句 2 看见人家伤心落泪，你怎能～？

Example 2 Seeing that they are weeping bitterly, how can you be so indifferent?

近 义 麻木不仁

无关紧要 wú guān jǐn yào

insignificant; of little importance

释 义 跟紧急重要没有关系，表示不重要，不影响大局。紧要：急切的，重要的。

Paraphrase Be unrelated to what is important. Not important and does not affect the overall situation. “紧要”: urgent and important.

例句 1 ～的问题我们以后再说，现在先讨论一下最要紧的问题吧。

Example 1 Let's discuss the most important issue first and deal with things of little importance later.

例句 2 只要片子能拍摄成功，我少睡点儿觉～。

Example 2 It doesn't matter if I sleep less so long as the film can be successfully completed.

近 义 无足轻重

反 义 至关重要

无家可归 wú jiā kě guī

be homeless; wander about without a home to go back to

释 义 失去家庭，无处投奔，表示生活艰辛、苦痛。归：回去。

Paraphrase One lost his home and has nowhere to go. It means one lives a hard and bitter life. "归": go back.

例句 1 战争使很多无辜百姓流离失所，～。

Example 1 The war leaves many people destitute and homeless.

例句 2 她收留了很多～的流浪猫。

Example 2 She took in many homeless cats.

近 义 流离失所

反 义 安居乐业

无价之宝 wú jià zhī bǎo

a priceless treasure

释 义 指无法估价的宝物，比喻最珍贵的东西。

Paraphrase It refers to an invaluable treasure. It metaphorically means something that is most valuable.

例句 1　别看这本书又破又旧，它可是我的～。

Example 1　Though the book is old and dog-eared, it's priceless to me.

例句 2　感情是～，怎么能用金钱衡量？

Example 2　True feelings are priceless. How can they be measured by money?

无拘无束　wú jū wú shù

unrestrained; free and easy

释 义　不受任何拘束，形容非常自由。拘、束：限制，约束。

Paraphrase　Not restrained. It means one enjoys complete freedom. "拘"，"束": to restrain.

例句 1　我真怀念童年时代无忧无虑、～的时光。

Example 1　I miss very much my free and easy childhood without any worry.

例句 2　比才笔下的卡门是一个热情奔放、～的吉卜赛姑娘。

Example 2　Carmen in Bizet's opera was a passionate and unrestrained zingara.

近 义　自由自在

反 义　缩手缩脚

无可奈何　wú kě nài hé

resign oneself to doing something; make oneself accept something unpleasant calmly

释 义　指毫无办法可想。奈何：怎么，怎么办。

Paraphrase　To have no way out. "奈何": how, what to do.

例句 1　又堵车了，小王～地叹了口气。

Example 1　Facing another traffic jam, Xiao Wang could only

resign himself to sighing.

例句 2　任凭怎么问，她也不开口，大家真是～。

Example 2　She kept silent to all the questions. There was nothing we could do about it.

无人问津　wú rén wèn jīn

nobody troubles to ask; be nobody's business

释 义　没有人询问渡口。后比喻无人过问而十分冷落。津：渡口。

Paraphrase　No one asks where the ferry is. Later it means that something is given a cold-shoulder by people. "津": the ferry.

例句 1　礼品店已经开张一个多星期了，可是却～。

Example 1　More than a week has passed since the opening of the gift shop. But no one is interested in it.

例句 2　自从这个饭馆因卫生问题被曝光以后，再也～。

Example 2　Since the restaurant was exposed by the media for its sanitary problem, there has been no customer.

无所事事　wú suǒ shì shì

have nothing to do; idle around; loaf away one's time

释 义　没有什么事可做，指闲着不做任何事情。事事：从事某种事情，前一个"事"是动词。

Paraphrase　One has nothing to do or is just idling about. "事事": to be engaged in something; the former "事" is a verb.

例句 1　大学毕业后，小宇没有找到合适的工作，整天～地闲逛。

Example 1　Xiaoyu hasn't found a suitable job since he graduated from college. So he is just idling about all day long.

例句 2　因为长期～，他的精神状态越来越差。

Example 2 Having been idling about for quite a long time, he is in increasingly low spirits.

近 义 游手好闲

反 义 大有作为

无微不至 wú wēi bù zhì

meticulously; with great care

释 义 没有一个细小的地方不照顾到。形容关心、照顾得非常细致周到。微：细微；至：到。

Paraphrase There is not a small place that one does not take care of. It means that one is very considerate and takes the greatest care of somebody or something. "微": trivial; "至": to reach.

例句 1 这里的护士对病人照顾得～。

Example 1 The nurses here take the greatest care of the patients.

例句 2 哪个孩子没得到过母亲～的照顾？

Example 2 Is there any child whose mother has not taken meticulous care of?

近 义 体贴入微

无忧无虑 wú yōu wú lǜ

be free from cares and worries

释 义 没有任何忧虑，形容心情舒畅自然。

Paraphrase One is free from cares and worries. It means one enjoys ease of the mind.

例句 1 这个摄影师最喜欢拍孩子们～的笑脸。

Example 1 This photographer likes to photograph the carefree smiling faces of children best.

例句 2 童年是人生中最～的时光。

Example 2 Childhood is the most carefree period in one's life.

反 义 愁肠百结 愁眉苦脸

无中生有 wú zhōng shēng yǒu

create something out of nothing; out of thin air

释 义 把没有的说成有。指凭空捏造。

Paraphrase To say that something nonexistent exist. It means sheer fabrication.

例句 1 我根本没去过那里，你怎么能～？

Example 1 I have never been there. How can you make up stories like that?

例句 2 我很了解小王，你别相信～的传言。

Example 2 I know Xiao Wang well. Don't believe hearsay out of thin air.

五十步笑百步 wǔ shí bù xiào bǎi bù

one who retreats fifty paces mocks another who retreats a hundred; the pot calls the kettle black

释 义 逃跑五十步的人嘲笑逃跑一百步的人，其实本质都一样。后用来比喻自己跟别人有一样性质的问题，只是程度上轻些，便自以为优越而嘲笑或反对别人。

Paraphrase One who retreats fifty paces mocks another who retreats a hundred although they are the same in essence. Later it means that one has the same problem as others but considers himself superior and laughs at or opposes others.

例句 1 他的英文很一般，还笑话别人的英文不好，不过是～罢了。

Example 1 His English is just so so. When he mocks other people's poor English, he is just like the pot that calls the kettle black.

例句 2 你的成绩不比他好多少，何必～？

Example 2 Your score is not very much higher than his. Why laugh at him?

典 故 战国时，魏惠王好战，经常为一点儿小事就和别国打仗。有一天，他问孟子："邻国的国君没有一个像我这样爱护百姓并尽力治国的，可是为什么别国的百姓不见减少，我国的百姓也不见增多呢？"孟子就给他打了一个比方："战场上，打了败仗的军人会逃跑。有的人一口气跑了一百步才停住脚，有的跑了五十步停住脚。那逃了五十步的人耻笑跑了一百步的人，说他们贪生怕死。您说行不行呢？"魏惠王说："当然不行，逃跑五十步同样是逃跑啊。"孟子就说："既然您知道这个道理，就不应该指望您的百姓会增加。因为您虽然在一些方面比别的国君强一些，可是您喜欢打仗，给百姓带来了苦难和牺牲，这与别的国君在本质上没有什么区别。"

五体投地 wǔ tǐ tóu dì

prostrate oneself before sb. (usually in admiration); be knocked out with admiration

释 义 双膝、双肘和头同时着地。佛教最恭敬的礼节。比喻佩服到了极点。五体：双膝、双肘和头部。

Paraphrase To prostrate oneself with two knees, two elbows and the head touching the ground at the same time. It's an etiquette expressing the highest respect in Buddhism. It means figuratively that one admires somebody to the extreme. "五体": two knees, two elbows and the head.

例句 1 听了他的一番演讲，我对他佩服得～。

Example 1 I was knocked out with admiration after hearing his

words.

例句 2 我对他的才学，真是佩服得～。

Example 2 I am knocked out with admiration by his great learning.

物极必反 wù jí bì fǎn

things turn into their opposites when they reach the extreme

释 义 事物发展到顶点，就会向相反的方向转化。极：顶点，极端。

Paraphrase Once a certain limit is reached, a change in the opposite direction will happen. "极": the extreme, the utmost.

例句 1 这件事你做得有点儿过头，当心～。

Example 1 You have gone a little bit too far in doing this. Be careful. Things will turn into their opposites when they reach the extreme.

例句 2 虱子多了不咬，债多了不愁，～就是这个道理。

Example 2 You will not feel the bites when there are a lot of lice. And you will not worry when you have too many debts. Just as the saying goes: Once a certain limit is reached, a change in the opposite direction will happen.

X

稀奇古怪 xī qí gǔ guài

queer; strange; peculiar

释 义 罕见而又奇怪。形容很少见的、令人惊奇诧异的事情。稀奇：罕见而奇异。

Paraphrase Rare and strange. It describes something rare and strange. “稀奇”: scarcely-seen and strange.

例句 1 这些～的东西是从哪里弄来的?

Example 1 Where did you get these rare and strange things?

例句 2 在列车上，邻座的人给我讲了一些～的事，使我很开心。

Example 2 On the train, the passenger who sat beside me told me some strange happenings which made me very happy.

反 义 司空见惯 平淡无奇

熙熙攘攘 xī xī rǎng rǎng

bustling with activity; with people bustling about

释 义 形容人往来频繁，十分热闹。熙熙：和乐的样子；攘攘：纷乱的样子。

Paraphrase Bustling with people coming and going. “熙熙”: harmoniously happy; “攘攘”: bustling.

例句 1 在～的人流中，有几个年轻女孩打扮得稀奇古怪。

Example 1 In the hustling and bustling stream of people, there are several girls who dress strangely.

例句 2 节日的公园，到处～。

Example 2 On holidays, the park is crowded with people eve-

rywhere.

近 义 冷冷清清

嬉皮笑脸 xī pí xiào liǎn

grin cheekily, mischievously, frivolously; smile and grimace

释 义 形容嬉笑顽皮、不庄重的样子。

Paraphrase To grin cheekily and behave in a mischievous and noisy manner.

例句 1 严肃点儿！别～！

Example 1 Be serious! Don't grin cheekily!

例句 2 你别～的，我在和你谈正经事。

Example 2 Don't behave in a frivolous way. I am talking about something serious with you.

反 义 不苟言笑

习以为常 xí yǐ wéi cháng

be used; accustomed to something

释 义 经常如此，也就形成常规了。现也指经常做某种事情或看到某种现象，也就觉得很平常了。

Paraphrase A frequent action becomes a convention. Now it also means that one becomes used to something which he often sees or does.

例句 1 初次看见沙尘暴，我很惊奇，现在已经～了。

Example 1 I was amazed at the first sight of sandstorm. But now I have gotten used to it.

例句 2 小王一次可以同时擀六个饺子皮，我们都很惊讶，但是他的家人早就～了。

Example 2 We are all surprised that Xiao Wang is able to roll

out six jiaozi wrappers at the same time. However, his family members have been used to it for a long time.

近义 司空见惯

反义 少见多怪

喜出望外 xǐ chū wàng wài

be overjoyed (at unexpected gain good news, etc.); be delighted and surprised (by an unexpected happy outcome)

释义 出乎意料的好事发生了,使人分外高兴。望:希望。

Paraphrase To be overjoyed at an unexpectedly good outcome. "望": expectation.

例句 1 她们第一次参加奥运会就获得了冠军,大家都～。

Example 1 Everyone was overjoyed that they won the championship on the first time that they took part in the Olympic Games.

例句 2 过生日时,父母送我一台笔记本电脑,我不禁～。

Example 2 I was overjoyed because my parents gave me a laptop for my birthday.

近义 喜从天降

喜怒哀乐 xǐ nù āi lè

feelings of pleasure, anger, sorrow, and joy; all human feelings; emotions

释义 喜欢、愤怒、悲哀、快乐。泛指人内心各种不同的情感。

Paraphrase Pleasure, anger, sorrow and joy. It means in a broad sense various kinds of human feelings.

例句 1 这两本日记记录了我的～。

Example 1 The two diaries have recorded all my feelings.

例句 2 小品之所以受欢迎,是因为它能幽默诙谐地表达人们的

～。

Example 2 The reason that short plays are popular is that they express various feelings of people in a humorous way.

喜怒无常 xǐ nù wú cháng

be subject to changing moods; be moody

释 义 一会儿高兴，一会儿恼怒，变化不定。无常：变化不定。

Paraphrase Be happy for a while and then be angry. One's mood is constantly changing. "无常": constantly changing.

例句 1 我不喜欢和～的人打交道。

Example 1 I don't like to have any contact with people of changing moods.

例句 2 他这个人～，很多人都不敢接近他。

Example 2 He is a man of moods. Many people dare not approach him.

喜气洋洋 xǐ qì yáng yáng

be radiant with delight; joy; cheerful and jubilant

释 义 充满了欢喜的神色或气氛。形容十分高兴。洋洋：愉快得意的样子。

Paraphrase One looks joyful or a place has a joyful atmosphere. It means that one is full of joy. "洋洋": looking jubilant.

例句 1 春节来临，大街上的人们～。

Example 1 The Spring Festival is coming near. All the people walking on the street look cheerful.

例句 2 比赛拿了冠军，小张～地回到家里，兴奋地把好消息告诉了母亲。

Example 2 Having won the championship in the competition, Xiao Zhang returned home with delight and informed his mother the

good news.

近 义 喜笑颜开

反 义 愁眉苦脸 愁容满面

喜新厌旧 xǐ xīn yàn jiù

be fond of the new and tired of the old; abandon the old for the new

释 义 喜欢新的,厌弃旧的。形容对爱情或对事物的喜好不专一。喜:喜欢、喜爱;厌:厌弃。

Paraphrase To love the new and loathe the old. It means that one is fickle in one's love or one's favorite. "喜": to like, to love; "厌": to loathe.

例句 1 看见别人背新书包,你也想换个新的,真是~。

Example 1 At the sight of someone's new schoolbag, you want to have yours changed. You are really capricious to love the new and loathe the old.

例句 2 你一见比妻子年轻貌美的人就动心,怎么能这样~呢?

Example 2 At the sight of someone who look younger and more beautiful than your wife, you get attracted. How can you be so fickle?

反 义 忠贞不渝

下不为例 xià bù wéi lì

not serve as a precedent; not to be repeated

释 义 以后不以这次作为先例。表示仅限于此。下:下一次。

Paraphrase This will not be taken as a precedent in the future. It's only for this occasion. "下": next time.

例句 1 这次就算了,记住仅此一次,~。

Example 1 Let bygones be bygones this time. Remember it's only this once. Don't do it again.

例句 2 由于我事先没说清楚，这次就不追究了，但是～，请大家自律。

Example 2 As I did not make it clear in advance, no one will be held responsible for it this time. But it should not be repeated. Please discipline yourselves.

先见之明 xiān jiàn zhī míng

foresight; prophetic vision

释 义 有预先洞察事物发展的规律、预知事情成败的能力。明：指眼光。

Paraphrase The ability to have an insight into the ways things develope and to predict success or failure. "明": insight.

例句 1 我很佩服他的～。

Example 1 I admire his foresight very much.

例句 2 科学家之所以伟大，往往是因为他们具有～。

Example 2 The greatness of scientists usually lies in their foresight.

先入为主 xiān rù wéi zhǔ

have a preconception; the first impression tends to prejudice a person

释 义 先听进去的话或者先获得的印象往往成为自己的主见，以后遇到不同的意见就不容易接受。

Paraphrase The opinion heard earlier or the first impression tends to influence one's own judgment greatly. As a result, it is difficult for one to accept different opinions later on.

例句 1 别～，你应该好好看一下他写的小说。

Example 1 You should give up your preconception and read his novel carefully.

例句 2 我们参加招聘面试时的表现，往往会给用人单位一个～的印象。

Example 2 Our performance in a job interview will often leave a preconceived impression on the interviewers.

先斩后奏 xiān zhǎn hòu zòu

execute the criminal first and report to the emperor afterwards; act first and report afterwards

释 义 先把罪犯处决，然后再向皇帝报告。比喻没有报请批准先采取行动，然后再向上级报告。又作“先斩后闻”、“先行后闻”。斩：杀头，旧时的一种死刑；奏：封建时代臣子对皇帝说话或上书。

Paraphrase To execute the criminal first and report to the emperor afterwards. In a figurative sense it means that one takes action first without permission, and then reports to one's superior. It is also termed “先斩后闻” or “先行后闻”. “斩”: to behead, an old death punishment; “奏”: an official presents a memorial or speaks to the emperor in feudal times.

例句 1 时间紧迫，来不及和总部商量，我只好～了。

Example 1 As time was limited, there was no time to consult the headquarters. I had to act first and report afterwards.

例句 2 这次谈判事关重大，你要多请示，切不可自作主张，～。

Example 2 The negotiation that you are heading for is of vital importance. You should ask for instructions from time to time. Don't decide for yourself. Never act first and report afterwards.

典 故 汉文帝时，任用申屠嘉为丞相。申屠嘉为人正直，秉公办事，很受文帝器重。文帝病逝后，景帝即位，宠幸晁错，修改了很多以前的法令，申屠嘉的很多意见得不到采纳。有一次，申屠嘉抓住了

治罪晁错的一个机会，准备奏请景帝杀掉晁错，但是晁错抢先跑到景帝面前辩解，结果景帝驳回了申屠嘉的奏章。申屠嘉气恨交加，吐血而死。他死前说："我后悔没有先杀了他再报告！"

相见恨晚 xiāng jiàn hèn wǎn

regret not having met earlier; sooner

释义 遗憾没有早相见。形容一见如故，情意相投。恨：遗憾。

Paraphrase To regret not having met somebody earlier. It means that two people become instant friends and find each other congenial. "恨": to regret.

例句 1 虽说初次见面，两人却谈得十分投机，～。

Example 1 Though they met for the first time, the two people had an agreeable chat and regretted not having known each other before.

例句 2 小方和小刘一见钟情，～。

Example 2 Xiao Fang and Xiao Liu fell in love with each other at first sight and regretted having not met each other earlier.

近义 一见如故

相敬如宾 xiāng jìng rú bīn

(of a married couple) respect each other as if the other were a guest

释义 互相敬重，好像对待宾客一样。形容夫妻之间互相尊敬，平等相待。宾：宾客。

Paraphrase Treat each other with respect. It is used to describe the mutual respect and equality between husband and wife. "宾": guests.

例句 1 祝你们相亲相爱，~！

Example 1 I wish that you will love each other devotedly and treat each other with sincere respect.

例句 2 这对老夫妻相濡以沫，~，携手度过了五十个春秋。

Example 2 During the past 50 years of their marriage, the old couple have helped each other to pull through many difficulties with sincere respect towards each other.

近 义 举案齐眉

相亲相爱 xiāng qīn xiāng ài

love each other devotedly; be deeply attached to each other

释 义 互相亲爱。形容爱人、家人感情深厚，关系亲密。

Paraphrase Love each other devotedly. It means husband and wife or family members love each other deeply or they are on intimate terms.

例句 1 祝新郎新娘~，白头偕老！

Example 1 I wish that the bride and groom will love each other and remain a devoted couple all through their lives.

例句 2 这家人~，和和睦睦，真让人羡慕。

Example 2 All the family members love each other and live in harmony and it really makes others envious.

相濡以沫 xiāng rú yǐ mò

help each other to pull through a plight; crisis

释 义 泉水干涸之后，鱼用唾液互相沾湿。比喻在困境中彼此用微薄的力量互相帮助。濡：沾湿；沫：唾沫。

Paraphrase Stranded fish moisten each other with spit. Figuratively it means that people exert their little strength to help each

other when they are in trouble. “濡”: to moisten; “沫”: spit.

例句 1 这对～的老夫妻，一起走过了风风雨雨的半个世纪。

Example 1 The old couple has helped each other go through ups and downs during the past half century.

例句 2 父亲去世后，母亲和三个孩子历尽艰辛，～，终于度过了难关。

Example 2 After my father died, my mother and the three children helped each other to go through hardships and finally overcame all the difficulties.

近 义 同舟共济

相提并论 xiāng tí bìng lùn

(usually used in the negative) mention in the same breath

释 义 把不同情况、不同性质的人或事放在同一位置来谈论、看待。多用于否定句。

Paraphrase To mention different conditions, people or things of different character in the same breath. It is usually used in the negative.

例句 1 我是我，他是他，不要把我们～。

Example 1 I am completely different from him. Don't mention us in the same breath.

例句 2 你不要把这么多不相干的事情～。

Example 2 Please don't compare so many irrelevant things in one same breath.

近 义 同日而语

相形见绌 xiāng xíng jiàn chù

pale by / in comparison; be outshone

释 义 相互比较，就显示出一方的不足。相形：对比；绌：不足。

Paraphrase One party proves inferior by comparison with the other party. “相形”: in comparison; “绌”: deficiency.

例句 1 我剪的双喜字挺漂亮，但和小芳的一比，就有点儿～了。

Example 1 The double-happiness character that I have cut from the paper is very beautiful. But it is outshone by the one cut by Xiaofang.

例句 2 小李的英语不错，但和在美国生活过十年的老刘比起来就～了。

Example 2 Xiao Li's English is good. But his English pales once in comparison with Lao Liu's who once lived in the US for ten years.

近 义 相形失色

相依为命 xiāng yī wéi mìng

rely / depend on each other for survival

释 义 互相依靠着过日子，泛指相互依靠，谁也离不开谁。

Paraphrase To get along by depending on each other. In a broad sense it means people depend on each other for survival.

例句 1 爸爸去世以后，小玲和妈妈～，过着清贫的生活。

Example 1 After her father died, Xiaoling and her mother depended on each other for survival and lived a poor life.

例句 2 他们不会忘记在一起～的日子。

Example 2 They will never forget those days when they depended on each other for survival.

小题大做 xiǎo tí dà zuò

make a fuss over / about a trifle

释 义 小题目做大文章。比喻拿小事情当大事情来办，不值得。

Paraphrase To write a long article on a small topic; too much ado about nothing. It means that it is not worthwhile to make a fuss over a trifle.

例句 1 我只不过提了一点不同意见，你就这样大发雷霆，实在是～。

Example 1 You got so furious with me just because I put forward some different opinions. You really made a fuss over a trifle.

例句 2 他一时口误才念错了你的名字，你不必～。

Example 2 He mispronounced your name simply because of a slip of the tongue. There is no need to make a mountain out of a molehill.

小心翼翼 xiǎo xīn yì yì

very cautiously; discreetly; with the greatest care

释 义 小心慎重的样子。形容十分恭敬谨慎，一点不敢疏忽。翼翼：恭敬慎重的样子。

Paraphrase A very cautious manner. It means that one is very watchful and reverent, and dare not neglect anything。"翼翼": a careful and reverent manner.

例句 1 实验员～地把化学试剂搬到实验室。

Example 1 The lab assistant took the chemical reagent to the lab very cautiously.

例句 2 每次察看古董的时候，他都是～地轻拿轻放。

Example 2 Whenever he examines an antique, he handles it gently with great care.

近 义 谨小慎微

反 义 大大咧咧 风风火火

笑容可掬 xiào róng kě jū

be radiant with smiles; be beaming with delight

释 义 形容笑容满面的样子。掬：两手捧起。

Paraphrase It describes a beaming face. “掬”: to cup with two hands.

例句 1 郑经理～地同每一位客人打招呼。

Example 1 Radiant with smiles, Mr. Zheng, the manager, greets the guests one by one.

例句 2 那个商店的售货员接待客人时～，礼貌周到。

Example 2 The salesgirl in that shop welcomes the customers with smiles, with all the polite formalities.

近 义 喜笑颜开

反 义 愁眉苦脸

心不在焉 xīn bù zài yān

absent-minded; inattentive

释 义 心思不在这里。形容思想不集中，多含贬义。焉：文言虚词，相当于“这里”。

Paraphrase One's soul is not with him. It means that one is absent-minded and it is often used in a derogatory sense. “焉”: a functional word in classical Chinese, meaning here.

例句 1 跟别人说话时不能总是一副～的样子，那样不礼貌。

Example 1 Don't speak to others in a distracted manner. It's very impolite.

例句 2 上课时麦克很不专心，总是～地望着窗外。

Example 2 Mike is very absent-minded in class. He always looks out the window.

近 义 漫不经心

反 义 全神贯注　专心致志

心心相印 xīn xīn xiāng yìn

have mutual affinity; be after each other's heart

释 义 佛教用语，指传授佛法不用言语，要用心来印证。后多形容彼此心意相通，思想感情完全一致。心：心意，思想感情；印：契合。

Paraphrase It's a Buddhist term, meaning that people communicates with Buddha dharma not through words but with hearts. Later it usually means that one's heart and feelings can find a perfect response in the other one. "心": thoughts and feelings; "印": to correspond to; to be compatible.

例句 1 这对恋人虽然远隔重洋，但仍～。

Example 1 Although the pair of lovers are separated by vast oceans, they still have mutual affinity with each other.

例句 2 我们是～的真心朋友。

Example 2 We are true friends of the same mind.

近 义 情投意合

反 义 貌合神离

心有余而力不足 xīn yǒu yú ér lì bù zú

the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak; one's ambition outruns one's ability

释 义 心里非常想做，可是力量不够。

Paraphrase It means one wants to do something very much but is not capable of doing it.

例句 1 人一上岁数，很多事都感到～。

Example 1 When people get old, their ability often falls short of their wishes.

例句 2 她都是七十多岁的人了，想帮儿女照顾孩子，也是～。

Example 2 She is in her seventies. Although she wants to take care of her grandchildren for her sons and daughters, she is not able to do that.

心照不宣 xīn zhào bù xuān

have a tacit understanding

释 义 双方心里明白，不公开说出来。照：知晓，明白；宣：公开说出。

Paraphrase To understand mutually without speaking out. "照": to know, to understand; "宣": to speak in public.

例句 1 他发现对于这里曾经发生过的那件事，大家都～。

Example 1 He found that all the people had a tacit understanding about what had happened there.

例句 2 比尔这次考试没有通过，所以看到比尔过来，大家都～地说起别的话题。

Example 2 Bill failed in the exam. So seeing that he was approaching, all his classmates switched to other topics with a tacit understanding.

心直口快 xīn zhí kǒu kuài

be frank; candid and outspoken

释 义 性情爽直，有话就说。

Paraphrase One is frank and never hesitates to speak his mind.

例句 1　张良是一个性格豪爽、～的小伙子。

Example 1　Zhang Liang is an outspoken young man who has a bold and unrestrained disposition.

例句 2　小妹是个～的人，心里怎么想就怎么说。

Example 2　My younger sister is frank and she always speaks her mind.

近　义　快人快语

反　义　转弯抹角

欣欣向荣　xīn xīn xiàng róng

thriving; flourishing; prosperous

释　义　原指草木长得茂盛。现多比喻事业发展得蓬勃兴旺。欣欣：草木旺盛的样子；荣：茂盛。

Paraphrase　It originally means that grasses and trees are growing luxuriantly. Now it means that a cause is rapidly moving towards prosperity. "欣欣": (of plants and trees) flourishing; "荣": luxuriant.

例句 1　改革开放以来，中国发生了翻天覆地的变化，到处～。

Example 1　Since the adoption of the Reform and Opening policy, great changes have taken place in China. There is a picture of prosperity everywhere.

例句 2　看到家乡一片～的景象，他心里有说不出的高兴。

Example 2　Seeing the thriving scene in his hometown, his happiness was too great to be described in words.

近　义　蒸蒸日上

反　义　每况愈下

形影不离 xíng yǐng bù lí

follow each other like body and shadow; be inseparable

释 义 像形体和它的影子那样分不开。形容彼此关系亲密，经常在一起。

Paraphrase Be inseparable like body and shadow. It means that people are on close terms and they are often together.

例句 1 东东有个～的伙伴，那就是一条高大的牧羊犬。

Example 1 Dongdong has an inseparable companion, which is a big shepherd dog.

例句 2 无论是在教室、图书馆和食堂，她们俩都～。

Example 2 Whether they are in the classroom, in the library, or in the dining room, they are like each other's shadow.

幸灾乐祸 xìng zāi lè huò

gloat over others' misfortune; be gratified by others' trouble

释 义 看到别人遇到灾祸反而高兴。形容缺乏爱心，含贬义。幸：庆幸；乐：欢乐，愉快。

Paraphrase To take pleasure in others' misfortune. It describes a heartless person and is used in a derogatory sense. "幸": to rejoice, to consider oneself lucky; "乐": to feel happy.

例句 1 他有困难我们应该主动帮助，怎么能～？

Example 1 We should help him on our own initiative when he is in trouble. How can we take pleasure in other people's misfortune?

例句 2 老王受伤了，你不但不帮他，反而～，良心丢到哪里去了？

Example 2 When Lao Wang was wounded, you did not give him a hand. Instead, you felt happy about it. Where was your conscience?

反 义 悲天悯人 雪中送炭

胸有成竹 xiōng yǒu chéng zhú

have a well-thought-out plan; do something with calm assurance

释 义 原指画竹前胸中已有了竹子的完美形象。比喻做事前已有了成熟的计划和打算。成竹：现成的竹子。

Paraphrase It originally means a painter has a perfect image of bamboo in one's mind before painting it. Now it metaphorically means that one has a well-thought-out plan beforehand. "成竹": a ready-made bamboo.

例句 1 对于这场排球赛，我们～。

Example 1 We feel confident about the volleyball match.

例句 2 文同画竹子画得好，是因为他～。

Example 2 Wen Tong was good at painting bamboo because he had a perfect image of bamboo in his mind before painting it.

近 义 心中有数

反 义 心中无数

典 故 宋朝有位叫文与可的画家，平生最喜欢画竹。他在庭院里栽了许多竹子，每天仔细观察、琢磨竹子在各个季节、各种气候里的变化和姿态。时间一长，每当他下笔前，在心里已经有了竹子的样子，因此一下笔就能很快画出形态逼真的竹子来。所以人们都说文与可画竹时"成竹在胸"。

栩栩如生 xǔ xǔ rú shēng

vivid and lifelike; true to life

释 义 指艺术形象非常逼真，像活的一样。栩栩：生动的样子。

Paraphrase It means an artistic creation is vivid and lifelike. "栩栩": vivid.

例句 1 我最喜欢徐悲鸿先生画的奔马，神态各异，～。

Example 1 I like the galloping horses drawn by Mr. Xu Beihong best. The horses he painted are vivid and have different styles.

例句 2 齐白石画的花、鸟、虫、鱼，不仅～，而且意味深长。

Example 2 The flowers, birds, insects, and fishes painted by Qi Baishi are not only vivid and lively but also full of deep meanings.

Y

鸦雀无声 yā què wú shēng

be in perfect silence

释 义 连乌鸦和麻雀的叫声都没有。形容非常寂静，一点儿声音都没有。

Paraphrase Not even a crow or sparrow can be heard. It describes an extreme stillness without a sound.

例句 1 教室里～，偶尔有翻书的声音。

Example 1 Silence reigns in the classroom. Occasionally, the sound of turning the pages can be heard.

例句 2 听见有脚步声，刚才还很嘈杂的小屋立刻～。

Example 2 Hearing the footsteps, all the people in the noisy small room fell suddenly silent.

近 义 悄无声息

反 义 震耳欲聋

哑口无言 yǎ kǒu wú yán

be left without an argument; be left / rendered speechless

释 义 像哑巴一样张着嘴说不出话来。形容因理亏而无话可说的样子。哑口：像哑巴一样说不出话来。

Paraphrase One opens his mouth but can't utter a word as a dumb person does. It often means one is speechless in an argument because he is in the wrong. "哑口": unable to speak like a dumb person.

例句 1 听了证人的一番陈述，犯罪嫌疑人立刻～了。

Example 1 After hearing the testimony of the witness, the suspect was rendered speechless.

例句 2 王明的一番话，把李经理驳得～。

Example 2 What Wang Ming said silenced Mr. Li, a manager.

近 义 张口结舌 理屈词穷

反 义 口若悬河 振振有词

揠苗助长 yà miáo zhù zhǎng

spoil things by excessive enthusiasm

释 义 把禾苗往高拔，帮助它生长。比喻不遵循事物的发展规律，急于求成，结果反把事情办坏了。又作“拔苗助长”。揠：拔。

Paraphrase To try to help shoots grow by pulling them up. It means metaphorically that one spoils things because he doesn't let things take their natural course. It is also written as “拔苗助长”. “揠”: to pull up.

例句 1 学习知识要循序渐进，切不可～，急于求成。

Example 1 Knowledge-learning should be carried out in proper sequence. Don't be too hasty and spoil things by excessive enthusiasm.

例句 2 孩子们的成长需要一定的时间，你这样～会害了他们。

Example 2 It takes time for children to grow up. The way you help them grow is harmful to them.

近 义 急于求成

反 义 循序渐进

典 故 古时候，有一个庄稼人总是担心自己的庄稼长不好。一天，他站在田间看着长出的庄稼苗，心想：什么时候才能丰收啊？最后，他想出了一个自以为不错的主意。他走到田里，把每一簇秧苗都

往上拔了一点儿，这样庄稼看起来好像长高了一样。可没过两天，被他拔过的庄稼苗全都死光了。

言不由衷 yán bù yóu zhōng

speak insincerely; speak with one's tongue in one's cheek; not say what one thinks

释 义 说的话不是发自内心的。形容虚伪敷衍，说的不是真心话。言：说话；由：自；衷：内心。

Paraphrase One's words is insincere. It means that one speaks in a hypocritical and perfunctory manner. "言": to speak; "由": from; "衷": heart.

例句 1 他说这话的时候，显得有点儿～。

Example 1 When saying these words, he appeared a little bit insincere.

例句 2 他今天在会上的发言很勉强，表态也有些～。

Example 2 He was very reluctant to make a speech at the meeting today and he declared his stand in a somewhat insincere manner.

近 义 口是心非

反 义 心口如一

言而无信 yán ér wú xìn

fail to keep one's promise; go back on one's words

释 义 说出的话不算数，不讲信用。信：信用。

Paraphrase To go back on one's words. "信": trustworthiness.

例句 1 你已经答应了他，怎么能～？

Example 1 You have already promised him. How can you go back on your words?

例句 2 你这样～，以后谁还愿意和你共事呢？

Example 2 If you don't keep your promise, who will be willing to cooperate with you in the future?

反 义 言而有信 一诺千金

言归正传 yán guī zhèng zhuàn

come back to the story / point; return from the digression

释 义 话头回到本题上来。归：回到；正传：指本题。

Paraphrase To return to the subject. "归": to return; "正传": the subject.

例句 1 笑话说完了，咱们～吧。

Example 1 That's just a joke. Let's return from the digression.

例句 2 咱们闲话少说，～，现在开会吧。

Example 2 Enough of this digression. Let's come back and start the meeting.

反 义 离题万里

言过其实 yán guò qí shí

exaggerate; overstate

释 义 原指言语浮夸，超过实际才能。现也指说话夸张，超出实际情况。

Paraphrase Originally it means to exaggerate one's talent. Now it also means that one overstates the real condition of things.

例句 1 这篇报道有些～，你千万别相信。

Example 1 This report stretches the truth a little bit. You mustn't take it too seriously.

例句 2 你这么夸奖他，有点儿～吧。

Example 2 Your praise for him sounds like a slight exaggeration.

近 义 夸大其词

反 义 言必有据 实事求是

典 故 三国时，蜀国大将马谡熟读兵书，喜欢谈论用兵作战等军事理论，诸葛亮十分器重他。但是刘备更了解马谡，临死前，曾告诫诸葛亮说：马谡这个人"言过其实，不可大用。"诸葛亮却不以为然，竟派马谡去守街亭。因马谡死教条，照兵书作战，结果被魏军先锋张郃击败，街亭失守，使蜀军全面失败。诸葛亮痛悔自己没有听从刘备的告诫，不得不挥泪按军法斩了马谡。

言简意赅 yán jiǎn yì gāi

brief and to the point; concise and comprehensive; short but making sense

释 义 言语简练，意思完备。形容说话、写文章简明扼要。赅：完备。

Paraphrase Words are concise, their meanings complete. It means that one speaks or writes concisely and comprehensively. "赅": complete.

例句 1 我非常喜欢读寓言故事，因为它们～，发人深省。

Example 1 I like to read fables very much because they are brief, thought-provoking and to the point.

例句 2 议论文应该写得～，不要堆砌文字。

Example 2 An argumentative essay should be brief and to the point. Don't just string ornate phrases together.

近义 简明扼要　短小精悍

反义 言之无物　言不及义

言听计从　yán tīng jì cóng

accept somebody's advice without questioning; act upon whatever somebody says

释义 说的话都听从，出的计谋都采纳。形容对某人极其信任。现多含贬义。从：听从。

Paraphrase To listen to somebody's words and accept somebody's advice without questioning. It means that one trusts somebody absolutely. Now it is often used in a derogatory sense. "从": to obey or to follow.

例句1 他对老板一向～，不知为什么今天也被炒鱿鱼了。

Example 1 He always acted upon what the boss said. I wonder why he was fired today.

例句2 报纸上关于保健的知识五花八门，有的还十分矛盾，如果都～，人就没办法活了。

Example 2 There are various suggestions about health care in newspapers. Some of them are contradictory to each other. If we follow all these suggestions, we'll be at a loss as to what to do.

言外之意　yán wài zhī yì

implied meaning; implication; meaning between the lines

释义 在话语之外的意思。指没有明说出来而暗示别人体会的本意。言：言语；意：意思。

Paraphrase Meaning behind one's words; what is actually meant. It refers to the implied meaning that is not directly expressed

in a conversation or in an article. “言”: words; “意”: meaning.

例句 1 他说了这么多关于参加竞赛的好处，～是想让你同意他参加。

Example 1 He listed so many benefits of taking part in the competition. What he actually-meant was to seek your permission to allow him to take part in it.

例句 2 我听明白了，他的～是你不应该现在去美国。

Example 2 I see. His implied meaning is that you should not go to the US at present.

近 义 弦外之音

言行一致 yán xíng yī zhì

one's deeds / actions square with one's words; be as good as one's words

释 义 说的和做的一样。言：言语；行：行动。

Paraphrase The deeds match the words. “言”: words; “行”: action.

例句 1 您放心，王林向来～，既然他答应了，就一定会帮您的。

Example 1 Don't worry. Wang Lin's action is always consistent with his words. Since he has made the promise, he is sure to help you.

例句 2 他是个～的人，你尽管放心。

Example 2 His deeds always match his words. Please be rest assured.

近 义 说一不二

反 义 言行不一　口是心非

掩耳盗铃 yǎn ěr dào líng

bury one's head in the sand

释 义 捂住自己的耳朵去偷铃。比喻蠢人自己欺骗自己。掩：捂；盗：偷。

Paraphrase To cover one's ears when he steals a bell. It means that it's stupid for one to cheat oneself. "掩"：to cover; "盗"：to steal.

例句 1 你这种～的做法，其实是在欺骗你自己。

Example 1：You are actually deceiving yourself by doing this.

例句 2 我看他们制定的这个政策比～还要愚蠢。

Example 2 In making this policy, they are more foolish than the one who deceived himself by plugging his ears while stealing a bell.

近 义 自欺欺人

典 故 春秋时，有个小偷想偷人家的大钟，可钟又大又重，没法背走。他就找了一个铁锤，准备砸碎以后一块一块地拿走。刚一敲，钟就响了起来。他怕别人听见，连忙把自己的耳朵捂起来，以为自己听不见了，别人也不会听见。这个故事中的"钟"后来演变为"铃"。

眼高手低 yǎn gāo shǒu dī

have high standards but little ability; be fastidious but incompetent

释 义 眼界很高，而做事能力很低。多指要求的标准很高，甚至不切实际，但实际上自己也做不到。眼：眼界；手：做事能力。

Paraphrase To have high standards but little ability. It means that one has high (but unrealistic) standards which he himself can't come up to. "眼"：one's eyereach; "手"：the ability to do things.

例句 1 现在很多大学毕业生都～，让用人单位十分失望。

Example 1 Now many college graduates have high ambition but little ability. They disappoint their employers very much.

例句 2 他看别人的文章总不顺眼，而自己写的文章又不怎么样，

实在是～。

Example 2 He always has a low opinion on the articles written by others. But his own articles are actually not good enough. His ability really doesn't match his high standard.

近义 志大才疏

眼花缭乱 yǎn huā liáo luàn

be dazed / dazzled

释义 形容看到纷繁复杂的事而感到眼睛昏花迷乱。缭乱：纷乱。

Paraphrase It means one is dazzled by the variety and complexity of things. "缭乱": chaotic.

例句 1 庙会上，各种民俗表演让游人们看得～。

Example 1 At the temple fair, the tourists are dazzled by various kinds of folk art performances.

例句 2 展厅里的工艺品琳琅满目，使人～，应接不暇。

Example 2 There are lots of beautiful artwares in the exhibition hall. There are more than the eye can take in and the visitors are all dazzled.

反义 一目了然

偃旗息鼓 yǎn qí xī gǔ

stop fighting; cease all activities; cease hostilities

释义 放倒战旗，停止击鼓。原指军队隐藏行踪，防止暴露。现多比喻战事停止或事情中止，不再进行。偃：放倒；息：停止。

Paraphrase To lower the banner and silence the drums. Originally it means that troops prevent exposing their traces. Now it usually means that the fire is ceased during a war or all activities come to

a stop. “偃”：to fall，to lower；“息”：to stop.

例句 1 看见周围到处都是武林高手，匪徒们立刻～了。

Example 1 Seeing that they had been surrounded by Kungfu masters，the gang of bandits stopped fighting at once.

例句 2 本来想在北京大干一场，但是经过一番挫折，他打算～了。

Example 2 He had intended to go all out to achieve success in Beijing，but after a series of setbacks，he was planning to cease all his activities.

近义 鸣金收兵

反义 大张旗鼓

典故 东汉末年，曹操的军队在汉水以北的山脚下搬运粮草，刘备手下的老将黄忠带兵去抢粮草，被曹军围困。刘备的另一员大将赵云带兵前去救援。赵云所到之处，曹军纷纷败退。曹操非常生气，亲率大军追击赵云。赵云跑回营寨后，命令部下大开营门，放倒战旗，停止击鼓，自己却独自提着枪骑着马立在营门口。曹操一见，怀疑赵云有伏兵，连忙撤退。

扬长避短 yáng cháng bì duǎn

make best use of the advantages and by-pass the disadvantages；develop the strong points and avoid the weak points

释义 发挥长处和优点，回避短处和缺点。扬：发扬。

Paraphrase To give full play to one’s strong points and avoid one’s shortcomings. “扬”：to make best use of.

例句 1 聪明人知道～，从不钻牛角尖。

Example 1 Smart people know how to make best use of their advantages and by-pass their disadvantages. They never get into a dead end.

例句 2 找工作要适合本人条件，～。

Example 2 In job hunting, you should find one that suits you in order to develop your strong points and avoid your shortcomings.

近 义 取长补短

养精蓄锐 yǎng jīng xù ruì

conserve strength and store up energy; recuperate and build up one's energy

释 义 保养精神，积蓄力量。蓄：保有；锐：锐气。

Paraphrase To nourish one's spirit and store up vigor. "蓄": to conserve; "锐": dash; elan.

例句 1 明天还要排戏，你得～，早点儿休息吧。

Example 1 There is still a rehearsal tomorrow. You'd better conserve your strength for it and go to bed earlier.

例句 2 经过半个月的～，我们满怀信心地迎接第五届大学生运动会。

Example 2 Having renewed our energy during the past half a month, we are now fully confident about ourselves to take part in the Fifth Sports Meeting for College Students.

反 义 殚精竭虑

腰缠万贯 yāo chán wàn guàn

be very rich; be very wealthy

释 义 腰里装着万贯钱。形容极其富有。缠：缠绕；贯：钱贯，旧时用绳索穿铜钱，每一千文为一贯。

Paraphrase To tie myriad of strings of cash around the waist. It means that one is very rich. "缠": to tie around; "贯": a string of 1,000 copper coins, and 1,000 copper coins are strung into one

string in ancient China.

例句 1 他因走私而～，如今也是因走私而锒铛入狱。

Example 1 He got very wealthy by smuggling. Now he has been put into prison because of it.

例句 2 别看他～，却连一个知心的朋友也没有。

Example 2 For all his wealth, he does not have a bosom friend.

近 义 富可敌国

反 义 一贫如洗

摇旗呐喊 yáo qí nà hǎn

wave flags and shout battle cries; beat the drum for somebody; give somebody support

释 义 原指古代作战时士兵摇动旗子呐喊助威。现比喻给别人助长声势。呐喊：大喊大叫。

Paraphrase In ancient times soldiers often wave flags and shout battle cries during a battle to boost morale. Now it means that people try to boost the morale of other people. "呐喊": to shout loudly.

例句 1 我虽然不能上场，但我是拉拉队员，专门负责～，作用也不小啊。

Example 1 Although I can't take part in it, I am in the cheering squad and play an important role in giving them support.

例句 2 当比赛进入高潮时，所有的观众都禁不住为自己支持的球队～。

Example 2 As the match enters its climax, all the audience can't help but shout and cry to support their our teams.

近 义 擂鼓助威

反 义 偃旗息鼓

摇身一变 yáo shēn yī biàn

give oneself a shake and change into another form; metamorphose in an instant, suddenly change one's identity

释 义 神怪小说中描写有神通能力的人能一晃身子就改变自己原来的模样。现多指坏人改头换面出现，也形容人的态度、说话、行动突然改变。

Paraphrase In the novels of mystery and the supernatural, the character with magic power often gives himself a shake and changes at once. Into another form now it means that an evil person changes his or her appearance but not the essence, and it also means that one's attitude, one's way of speaking and behaving change suddenly.

例句 1 这个靠装修为生的打工仔～，成了某房地产公司的大老板。

Example 1 The worker who once made his living by interior decorating metamorphosed into the boss of a real estate company.

例句 2 白骨精～，变成了美若天仙的女子。

Example 2 The White Bone Demon suddenly metamorphosed into a beautiful fairy.

近 义 改头换面

反 义 一成不变

摇头摆尾 yáo tóu bǎi wěi

shake the head and wag the tail; assume an air of complacency

释 义 摇动着脑袋，摆动着尾巴。原形容鱼悠然自得的样子。现多用来形容人摇头晃脑、得意轻狂的样子。

Paraphrase To shake the head and wag the tail. It describes the content and carefree way a fish swims in the water. Now it often means that one assumes an air of complacency.

例句 1　我一回到家，小狗毛毛就对我～。

Example 1　When I am back at home, my little dog Maomao will shake its head and wag its tail towards me.

例句 2　看着小金鱼在鱼缸里～地游来游去，我的心情渐渐平静下来。

Example 2　At the sight of the little goldfish swimming freely in the goldfish bowl, I gradually calmed down.

杳无音信　yǎo wú yīn xìn

there has been no news whatsoever about somebody; have not heard from somebody

释义　形容得不到对方一点儿消息。又作"杳无音讯"。杳：见不到踪影；音信：消息。

Paraphrase　No news about somebody can be heard. It is also termed"杳无音讯". "杳": distant and out of sight; "音信": news, information.

例句 1　小黄自从前年去北京后，就～了。

Example 1　Since Xiao Huang went to Beijing the year before last, no news about him has been heard.

例句 2　你一走就～，怎么不跟我们联系一下？

Example 2　There has been no news about you since you left. Why didn't you contact us?

近义　石沉大海

咬文嚼字　yǎo wén jiáo zì

pay excessive attention to wording; be fastidious about wording

释义　咬嚼文字。形容过分地斟酌字句，也用来讽刺死抠字眼而不注意精神实质。文：文字。

Paraphrase To mince words in speech; to chew upon a subject. It means that one pays excessive attention to the wording of sentences. It also means that one pays too much attention to the wording regardless of the spiritual essence. "文": words.

例句 1 尽管他爱～，但是我还是喜欢和他探讨一些问题。

Example 1 Though he tends to pay excessive attention to wording, I like to talk with him about some issues.

例句 2 他说话喜欢～，既可爱又好笑。

Example 2 He is always fastidious about wording when he speaks, which is both lovely and funny.

近 义 字斟句酌

咬牙切齿 yǎo yá qiè chǐ

gnash one's teeth

释 义 咬紧牙齿。形容痛恨到极点的样子。切齿：咬紧牙齿。

Paraphrase To gnash one's teeth. It describes what one looks like when seized with anger or hatred. "切齿": gnash one's teeth.

例句 1 你别总是～的，还是好好反思一下自己的行为吧！

Example 1 Don't always gnash your teeth. You'd better reflect upon what you have done!

例句 2 他～地说："咱们走着瞧！"

Example 2 He said between clenched teeth: " Let's wait and see!"

近 义 恨之入骨

耀武扬威 yào wǔ yáng wēi

be arrogant and overbearing; parade one's prowess

释 义 炫耀武力，显示威风。耀：夸耀，炫耀；扬：显示，显扬。

Paraphrase To flaunt one's strength and might. "耀": to show off; "扬": to display.

例句 1 老虎在森林里~,小动物们吓得大气不敢出一声。

Example 1 The tiger parades its prowess in the forest and the small animals dare not make a sound due to fear.

例句 2 你们竟敢在我的家里~,滚出去!

Example 2 How dare you flaunt your strength in my house! Get out of here!

近 义 飞扬跋扈

反 义 低三下四

叶公好龙 yè gōng hào lóng

professed love of what one really fears; what one does belies one's commitments

释 义 叶公号称喜欢龙,可是等真龙来了,却把他吓得魂飞天外。比喻表面上似乎喜爱某事物,实际上并非真正喜爱它。叶:作为姓氏,旧时读 shè;好:爱好。

Paraphrase A Lord Ye of ancient times professed to be fond of dragons very much, but when the real dragon came to his house, he was frightened out of his wits. It means metaphorically that one appears to be fond of something, but he does not really love it. "叶": a surname, originally pronounced as "shè"; "好": to be fond of.

例句 1 你是真喜欢攀岩呢,还是~?

Example 1 Do you really love rock climbing or do you just profess to love it?

例句 2 嘴上说喜欢游泳,真正让你下水,又躲到一边,这和~有什么两样?

Example 2 You've said that you love swimming. But you shrink from getting into the swimming pool. There's no difference

between you and Lord Ye.

典 故 古时候，有一个人叫叶子高，人们尊称他为叶公。他非常喜欢龙。他家的墙壁上画着龙，屋梁上、柱子上、门窗上都雕刻着龙，连他使用的杯子、盘子、碗、碟子和茶几上也有龙的图形。一走进叶公的家里，就好像进了龙的世界，叶公也因此远近闻名。真龙知道了这件事，很感动，就亲自跑到叶公的家里向他道谢。等它把头从窗户外伸进去的时候，尾巴还拖在客厅里。叶公一看，吓得魂飞魄散，撒腿就逃。原来，叶公喜欢的只是画的、刻的假龙，并不是真正的龙。

叶落归根 yè luò guī gēn

falling leaves settle on their roots; a person residing elsewhere finally returns to his ancestral home

释 义 树叶总凋落在树根边上。旧时比喻事物总有一定的归宿，现比喻不忘本源。多指做客他乡的人最终要回到家乡。

Paraphrase Leaves always fall around the root. Originally it means that things are bound to have a final place to return to. Now it means metaphorically that one can not forget his origin. Usually it means that a person residing elsewhere will finally return to his hometown.

例句 1 在外漂泊了几十年，老张终于回到了家乡，他说，人总是希望～的。

Example 1 Having lived in foreign land for decades, Lao Zhang finally returned to his hometown. He said that everyone wanted to return to his ancestral home just as leaves always fall around the root.

例句 2 树高千丈，～，我虽然在加拿大生活，却从来没有忘记养育我的祖国。

Example 2 No matter how tall a tree is, the leaves always fall

around its root. Although I'm living in Canada, I have never forgotten my motherland where I was brought up.

夜长梦多 yè cháng mèng duō

a long night is fraught with dreams; a long delay may mean trouble

释 义 时间一拖长了，情况有可能发生不利的变化。夜长：指时间拖长。

Paraphrase It is likely to get worse if something is delayed for a long time. "夜长": a long delay.

例句 1 为了避免～，我们应该早下手。

Example 1 We must take action as soon as possible to avoid further troubles.

例句 2 这件事要马上办，免得～。

Example 2 This should be done at once. Otherwise something untoward may happen.

夜深人静 yè shēn rén jìng

all is quiet at the dead of night; in the still of night

释 义 夜深了没有人声，非常寂静。静：没有响声。

Paraphrase Late at night it is very quiet without any sound. "静": quiet, without any sound.

例句 1 ～的夜晚，我独自坐在灯下写日记。

Example 1 At the dead of night, I wrote my diary beside the lamp, sitting alone.

例句 2 已经～了，他还在聚精会神地看书。

Example 2 It was late at night. He was still reading attentively.

夜以继日 yè yǐ jì rì

night and day; round the clock

释 义 晚上接上白天。形容日夜不停地做某事。多形容十分勤奋、勤恳、忙碌。继：继续。

Paraphrase To continue day and night. It means that one keeps on doing something day and night. It usually means that one is hardworking, diligent, or busy. "继": to continue.

例句 1 周恩来总理常常～、废寝忘食地工作。

Example 1 Premier Zhou Enlai often worked day and night to the extent of neglecting his meals and sleep.

例句 2 你不能总是～地写作，这样下去身体会垮的。

Example 2 You should not always write day and night. If you continue like this, you will collapse.

近 义 通宵达旦

一败涂地 yī bài tú dì

suffer a crushing defeat; fail completely

释 义 一旦失败就肝脑涂地。形容失败到不可收拾的地步。涂地：指血和脑浆流到地上。

Paraphrase If one were defeated, one would spill one's liver and brains on the ground. It means metaphorically that one suffers a crushing defeat. "涂地": to spill one's blood and brains on the ground.

例句 1 在激烈的商战中，他曾经～，现在终于东山再起。

Example 1 He once suffered a crushing defeat in the fierce commercial competition. But now he has resumed his former position.

例句 2 在我军强大炮火的攻击下，敌军～，仓皇逃窜。

Example 2 The enemy were routed under the fierce artillery

attack of our army and they fled in panic.

反 义 大获全胜

一本万利 yī běn wàn lì

a small investment brings a ten thousand-fold profit; make big profits with a small investment

释 义 一份本钱，上万倍的利润。形容本钱小而利润大，也形容用极少的气力得到很大的好处。本：本钱；利：利润。

Paraphrase A small investment brings a ten thousand-fold profit. It means that one makes big profits with small capital. It also means that one gains a lot with little efforts. "本": capital; "利": profits.

例句 1 他给我介绍了一桩～的生意。

Example 1 He introduced to me a highly profitable business opportunity.

例句 2 别总幻想～的好事。

Example 2 Don't always dream about making big profits with a small investment.

一本正经 yī běn zhèng jīng

be stern and forbidding; be very serious; in all seriousness

释 义 形容庄重、规矩，非常认真。有时带有讽刺的意味。正经：庄重，正派。

Paraphrase Used to described a person who is very serious. Sometimes it is used in a sense of irony. "正经": serious.

例句 1 他～地对我说："这次我是认真的。"

Example 1 He said to me in all seriousness: "I mean what I say this time."

例句 2 看他～的样子，我们的态度也严肃起来。

Example 2 Looking at his stern face, we also got serious.

近 义 郑重其事

反 义 嬉皮笑脸

一笔勾销 yī bǐ gōu xiāo

write off at one stroke; cancel once for all

释 义 一笔把账勾掉。比喻一切全都取消或不提前事，一概不计较。勾销：取消，抹掉。

Paraphrase To write off the debt at one stroke. It means metaphorically that all is cancelled or one gives no thought to what has happened before. "勾销": to cancel; to erase.

例句 1 经过坦诚的交流，双方过去的恩怨～了。

Example 1 After candid communication, the two parties had written off all their past grievances between them.

例句 2 既然我们双方都有诚意重新合作，那么以前的事就～了吧。

Example 2 Since we both have the sincerity to cooperate again, let's write off what happened in the past between us.

一波三折 yī bō sān zhé

be full of twists and turns; be full of ups and downs

释 义 原指写字笔画曲折多姿。后比喻文章结构曲折起伏或事情进行中意外的变化很多。波：书法中的捺；折：指写字转换笔锋方向。

Paraphrase Originally it means that the strokes of Chinese characters are written in a complicated and graceful way. Later it means figuratively that the plot of a story is characterized by ups and downs or one comes across many unexpected changes in doing some-

thing. “波”: the right-falling stroke in Chinese calligraphy; “折”: the turning stroke in Chinese calligraphy.

例句 1 这个～的故事真让人难以置信。

Example 1 The story is full of ups and downs and it is really incredible.

例句 2 电视剧《西游记》情节生动，～，引人入胜。

Example 2 The plot of the TV drama *Journey to the West* is characterized by ups and downs and is very fascinating.

近 义 一波未平，一波又起

反 义 一帆风顺

一波未平，一波又起 yī bō wèi píng，yī bō yòu qǐ

hardly has one wave subsided when another rises; one trouble follows another

释 义 一个波浪还没有平复，另一个已经又涌起来了。原比喻诗文写得波澜起伏，后比喻事情进行中波折很多。

Paraphrase Hardly has one wave subsided when another rises. It originally means that a poem is written with one climax following another. Later it means that one has met many troubles during the process of doing something.

例句 1 ～，案子刚刚了结，又有人来告状。

Example 1 One trouble follows another. Hardly has this case come to an end when someone else comes with a lawsuit.

例句 2 资金短缺问题还没有解决，又发生了工伤事故，真是～。

Example 2 One trouble follows another. The lack of fund was complicated by an accident in which several workers got injured.

近 义 一波三折

反 义 风平浪静 一帆风顺

一步登天 yī bù dēng tiān

attain the highest level in one step; have a meteoric rise

释 义 一步就登上了天。比喻一下子就达到极高的境界或程度。也比喻人突然得志，爬上高位，含有讽刺意味。

Paraphrase To reach heaven in a single bound. Metaphorically it means that one attains the highest level in one step. It means that one achieves his ambition suddenly and climbs to a high position. Sometimes it is used ironically.

例句 1 他是靠着阿谀奉承～的，其实没有什么真本事。

Example 1 He rose to the top through flattery. Actually he has no real ability.

例句 2 学习知识要循序渐进，逐渐积累，想～是不可能的。

Example 2 Learning is an ongoing process. Knowledge should be accumulated step by step. It's impossible to attain the highest level in one step.

近 义 平步青云

一尘不染 yī chén bù rǎn

not stained with a particle of dust; be incorruptible; remain unaffected; be spotlessly clean

释 义 佛教用语，指佛教徒修行时排除物欲，不受尘世事物诱惑，保持心地洁净。后常用来形容为官清廉或人品高洁，丝毫没有沾染坏习气。也形容环境或物体极其清洁干净。尘：佛教用语，指色、声、香、味、触、法等诱惑，总称“六尘”；染：沾染。

Paraphrase A term of Buddhism, which means that during their practice the Buddhists should get rid of human desires and remain uncontaminated by the dusts coming through the eye, the ear, the nose, the tongue, the body and the mind i. e. the six roots of sensation. Later it means that some officials are incorruptible or

some people are honest, upright and without being contaminated by bad habits. "尘": a term of Buddhism, the reference to the temptations of color, voice, smell, taste, touch and law, which are called "six forms of dust" in general; "染": to get contaminated.

例句 1 她的房间～,一看就知道是个勤快的姑娘。

Example 1 Her room is spotlessly clean. From that we can see she is a hardworking girl.

例句 2 新教学楼里的教室宽敞明亮,桌椅、玻璃都被擦得～。

Example 2 The classrooms in the new teaching building are spacious and bright, with spotless desks, chairs and window glass.

近 义 纤尘不染

一成不变 yī chéng bù biàn

invariable; unalterable

释 义 原指刑法一经形成,永不改变。后泛指事物一经形成就固定不变。成:形成。

Paraphrase Originally it means once criminal law is established, it is immutable for ever. Later it is used in a general sense that things are unchangeable once they take form. "成": to take form.

例句 1 这个政策已经实施了六年,应该调整一下了,～是不行的。

Example 1 It is six years since the policy was adopted. It should be adjusted. Nothing is invariable.

例句 2 世界上的事物都在发展变化,没有～的东西。

Example 2 Everything in the world is developing and changing. Nothing is immutable.

反 义 千变万化

一筹莫展 yī chóu mò zhǎn

can find no way out; be at one's wit's end; be at a loss

释 义 一点儿计策也施展不出来。形容一点儿办法也没有。筹：计策，办法；展：施展。

Paraphrase To have no stratagem to use. It means that one is at the end of his wits. "筹": stratagem, tact, way; "展": to put to use.

例句 1 离最后交稿只有一个星期了，小王还没有找到最佳思路，～。

Example 1 There is only a week left before the deadline when Xiao Wang should turn in his article. But he hasn't yet thought of the best plan for it. So now he is at his wit's end.

例句 2 下星期三就是交工的日期了，可现在工程只完成了一半，急得队长～。

Example 2 The project is expected to be completed and handed over next Wednesday. But now only half of it has been completed. The overseer is so worried that he is at his wit's end.

近 义 束手无策

反 义 成竹在胸

一触即发 yī chù jí fā

may be triggered off at any moment; be on the verge of breaking out

释 义 原指箭在弦上，一动就会射出去。后比喻事态已发展到极其紧张的程度。触：接触，碰；即：就。

Paraphrase Originally it means the arrow is put on the bowstring and will be triggered with a small move. Metaphorically it means that the tension of a situation increases to the breaking point. "触": to touch; "即": at once.

例句 1 他们俩的矛盾已经到了～的地步。

Example 1 The conflict between them is on the verge of breaking out.

例句 2 敌对双方调兵遣将，准备就绪，战争～。

Example 2 The two opposing sides are mobilizing troops and a war is on the verge of breaking out.

近 义 千钧一发

一蹴而就 yī cù ér jiù

succeed at the first try; reach the goal in one step

释 义 踏一步就成功。形容事情轻而易举，一下子就能成功。又作"一蹴而得"。蹴：踏；就：成功。

Paraphrase To reach the goal in one step. It means that something is very easy and one can succeed in doing it in one move. It's also termed "一蹴而得". "蹴": to stamp; "就": to succeed.

例句 1 成功不可能～，往往要付出大量的努力。

Example 1 Success can't be achieved at the first try. Great efforts should be made.

例句 2 建造这样规模的大厦，绝不是～的事情。

Example 2 The construction of such a large-scale building can never be completed overnight.

一刀两断 yī dāo liǎng duàn

break off a friendship; sever relations

释 义 一刀斩成两段，比喻坚决断绝关系。也比喻做事干脆、果断。又作"一刀两段"。

Paraphrase To sever with one stroke. It means metaphorically that one makes a clean break of a relation. It also means that one acts

decisively and in a straight forward manner. It is also termed "一刀两段".

例句 1 别提他，我们已经～了。

Example 1 Don't mention him again. Everything is finished between us.

例句 2 你和她不是早已～了吗？还找她干什么？

Example 2 You have already broken off with her. Why do you look for her again?

近 义 快刀斩乱麻

反 义 藕断丝连

一帆风顺 yī fān fēng shùn

smooth sailing; everything goes smoothly

释 义 船挂满帆，顺风行驶。比喻境遇非常顺利，毫无挫折。

Paraphrase To hoist the sails and sail before the wind. Metaphorically it refers to favorable circumstances without any trouble.

例句 1 生活的道路不总是～的，困难和挫折在所难免。

Example 1 The path of life is not always smooth. Difficulties and setbacks are inevitable.

例句 2 任何人的成长都不会～。

Example 2 No one's growing up process is smooth sailing.

近 义 一路平安

反 义 一波三折 节外生枝

一鼓作气 yī gǔ zuò qì

press on to finish without letup; get something done in one sustained effort

释 义 原指战斗开始，擂第一通战鼓时，军队士气最振作、最旺盛。后用以形容鼓足干劲，在短期内把事情做好、做完。鼓：击鼓；作：振作；气：勇气。

Paraphrase Originally it means that the morale of soldiers is at best when the first roll of drums is beaten to arouse the fighting spirit. Later it means that one gets something done in one vigorous and sustained effort. "鼓": to beat drums; "作": to bestir oneself; "气": courage.

例句 1 还差一个小屋子就刷完了，咱们～，争取今天晚上把它干完。

Example 1 We have only one small room left to be painted. Let's press on without letup and try to finish our job tonight.

例句 2 战士们～冲上山顶，把最后一伙敌人全部歼灭了。

Example 2 The soldiers rushed to the mountaintop in one sustained effort and killed the last group of enemy on it.

近 义 趁热打铁 一气呵成

典 故 春秋时，齐国和鲁国交战。当齐军第一次敲鼓的时候，鲁庄公也下令擂鼓，准备冲击，但被曹刿(guì)阻止了。直到齐军擂过第三次鼓，曹刿才让鲁军擂鼓发动攻击。结果齐军被打败。事后，曹刿对鲁庄公解释说："打仗靠的是勇气。第一次击鼓进攻，士兵的勇气大大振作，第二次就要差一些，到第三次击鼓时几乎就没有勇气了。敌人已没有士气，而我军斗志正高，这才是取胜的最好时机。"

一技之长 yī jì zhī cháng

proficiency in a particular line; professional skill

释 义 指某一方面的技能或特长。技：技能，本领；长：特长，专长。

Paraphrase To have specialty in a particular field. "技": skill;

“长”：specialty.

例句 1 只要你有～，就能在社会上生存。

Example 1 So long as you have your own specialty, you can make a living in society.

例句 2 修理钢琴是他的～，这门手艺帮他挣了很多钱。

Example 2 His specialty is repairing the piano. This professional skill has helped him make a lot of money.

反 义 一无所长

一见如故 yī jiàn rú gù

feel like old friends at the first meeting; become instant friends

释 义 初次相见就像老朋友一样。又作“一见如旧”。故：老朋友，故人。

Paraphrase To feel like old friends at the first meeting. It is also termed “一见如旧”. “故”：old friends.

例句 1 小张和小刘初次相遇，就～，谈得非常投机。

Example 1 Xiao Zhang and Xiao Liu became instant friends at their first meeting and they had an agreeable conversation.

例句 2 他和这个小伙子～，结成了忘年交。

Example 2 He and the young man became instant friends at their first meeting despite great difference in age.

近 义 相见恨晚

一见钟情 yī jiàn zhōng qíng

fall in love at first sight / glance

释 义 指男女间一见面就产生了爱慕之情。钟：集中；钟情：情爱专注。

Paraphrase To fall in love at first sight. “钟”：to focus; “钟

情”：to be deep in love.

例句 1 你相信～吗？

Example 1 Do you believe in love at first sight?

例句 2 在这次西藏旅行中，他们俩～，回来后很快就结了婚。

Example 2 During the journey to Tibet they fell in love at first sight and quickly got married after they returned.

近 义 一见倾心

一箭双雕 yī jiàn shuāng diāo

kill two birds with one stone

释 义 一枝箭射中两只雕。原指射箭技术高超，多比喻做一件事得到了两种好处或达到了两个目的。雕：一种很凶狠的鸟，能捕食山羊、野兔等。

Paraphrase To shoot two hawks with one arrow. Originally it means that one is skilled superbly in archery. Metaphorically it means that one achieves two purposes or two advantages by doing one thing. “雕”: hawks, a kind of fierce bird which prey on goats and wild rabbits.

例句 1 我想出了个～的好计策。

Example 1 I have come up with a good idea which will help us kill two birds with one stone.

例句 2 用这个办法可以～，既能瓦解贩毒团伙，又能引出藏在幕后的团伙头目。

Example 2 In this way we can kill two birds with one stone. On the one hand, we can undermine the morale of the drug-smugglers. On the other hand, the head of the drug-smugglers behind the scene will be brought out.

近 义 一石二鸟 一举两得

反 义 事倍功半

典 故 南北朝时，有一名武将叫长(zhǎng)孙晟，武艺高强，特别擅长射箭。一次，他和朋友外出打猎，看见天空有两只大雕在争夺一块肉。朋友想试试长孙晟的箭法，随手递给他两枝箭。长孙晟接过箭，骑在马上飞奔，看准两只雕厮打争夺得难分难解的时候，"嗖"的一声，一箭射去，两只大雕一齐掉了下来。

一举两得 yī jǔ liǎng dé

gain two ends at once; achieve two things with one stroke

释 义 做一件事，同时得到两种好处。又作"一举两便"。举：举动，动作。

Paraphrase To gain two ends by doing one thing. It is also termed "一举两便". "举": action.

例句 1 退耕还林，～，既能防治沙尘暴，又能保持水土。

Example 1 We gain two ends by restoring the farmland to the forest. Not only can it prevent sandstorms, but it can also help conserve water and soil.

例句 2 你出国留学不仅可以学习专业，而且还能开阔眼界，真是～。

Example 2 By studying abroad, not only can you learn more about your profession, but you can also broaden your scope of knowledge. You kill two birds with one stone.

近 义 一箭双雕 一石二鸟

反 义 事倍功半

一刻千金 yī kè qiān jīn

time is gold; every minute is precious

释 义 比喻时间十分宝贵。刻：片刻，指很短的时间。

Paraphrase It means metaphorically that time is very precious. “刻”: a while, a very short period of time.

例句 1 你们青年人要珍惜大好时光，～啊！

Example 1 Young people like you should cherish time. As you know, time is gold.

例句 2 我不能白白浪费这～的光阴。

Example 2 I can't waste my precious time in vain.

一毛不拔 yī máo bù bá

be unwilling to give up even a hair; very stingy; miserly

释 义 形容十分自私吝啬。

Paraphrase It means that one is extremely stingy and selfish.

例句 1 你别想从他那里借到钱，他是个～的人。

Example 1 Don't expect to borrow any money from him. He is a miser.

例句 2 同学们聚餐，他向来～。

Example 2 He was so miserly that he never paid the bill when he dined together with other classmates.

一鸣惊人 yī míng jīng rén

(of an obscure person) achieve spectacular result by one's first try; set the world on fire

释 义 比喻平时表现很平常，一旦做起事来就有惊人的成就。

Paraphrase It means that one who is vey normal suddenly does a brilliant feat.

例句 1　年轻人做事情要脚踏实地，别成天梦想～。

Example 1　Young people should work in a down-to-earth way. Don't dream all day about amazing the world with a single brilliant feat.

例句 2　汉城奥运会上，他～，一举夺得两块金牌。

Example 2　He got two gold medals in the Seoul Olympic Games on first attempt.

典　故　战国时，齐威王登上国君宝座之后，三年不理朝政，国家日渐衰落。周围的国家都想吞并齐国的土地，齐国面临亡国的危险，可是没人敢指责国王。齐国有一个叫淳于髡(kūn)的大臣，非常善于用隐语。一天，他去见齐王，说："大王，我们齐国有一只大鸟，在宫里已经三年了，可是它从来不飞，也不叫，您说这是只什么鸟啊？"齐威王明白了淳于髡的意思，笑着说："此鸟不飞则已，一飞冲天；不鸣则已，一鸣惊人。"从此，齐威王开始认真治理国家，加强军事，使齐国从即将灭亡的境地一跃成为称霸三十六年的强国。

一目了然　yī mù liǎo rán

be manifest / clear in one glance

释　义　一眼就可以看清楚。一目：看一眼。

Paraphrase　Be clear in one glance. "一目": one glance.

例句 1　他的板书整齐漂亮，教学重点～。

Example 1　His handwriting on the blackboard is orderly and beautiful. All the important teaching points are clear in one glance.

例句 2　你还是标出重点来吧，这样可以～。

Example 2　You'd better mark all the important points to make them clear in one glance.

一年之计在于春　yī nián zhī jì zài yú chūn

a whole year's work consists in a good start in spring

释义 一年的计划是在春天做的，一年的收成也取决于春天的播种。后比喻成功取决于良好的计划。

Paraphrase The plan of a year is made in spring and the harvest of a year lies in the seeding in spring. Figuratively, it means that success depends on good planning.

例句1 他明白～的道理，所以刚过春节就忙开了。

Example 1 He knew that a whole year's work consists in a good start in spring. So he started to work immediately after Spring Festival.

例句2 常言道：一日之计在于晨，～。

Example 2 As the saying goes, a whole year's work consists in a good start in spring and a whole day's work lies in a good start in the morning.

一诺千金 yī nuò qiān jīn

a promise that is worth a thousand ounces of gold; the once given promise is as good as a thousand tael

释义 形容做人极讲信用，说话算数。诺：诺言。

Paraphrase It means that one is credible and keeps his promise. "诺": a promise.

例句1 他说话算数，～，你不用担心。

Example 1 He is a man of his words and will keep his promise. Don't worry about it.

例句2 ～真君子，言而无信是小人。

Example 2 A man of honor will keep his words while a man of vile character will fail to be credible.

典故 秦朝末年，楚地有个叫季布的人，为人侠义，刚正守信，他曾帮项羽与刘邦作战。刘邦战胜项羽后，曾下令通缉季布，后来刘邦听从手下的劝告，赦免了季布，并且封他做了官。当时流传着一句

有名的话，叫做："得黄金千两，不如得季布一诺。"

一事无成 yī shì wú chéng

accomplish / achieve nothing; go nowhere

释 义 连一件事也没有做成。形容什么事都做不成，毫无成就。成：做成，完成。

Paraphrase Not a single task has been accomplished. It means that one can accomplish nothing. "成": to accomplish, to achieve.

例句 1 生活在当今这个社会环境里，如果不多学点儿本领，必然～。

Example 1 In today's society, you will achieve nothing if you don't learn more knowledge and skills.

例句 2 想想都四十多岁了还～，他不禁有些失落。

Example 2 He can't help feeling upset when he thinks that he has achieved nothing as a man in his forties.

一视同仁 yī shì tóng rén

treat all alike; treat equally without discrimination

释 义 原指圣人对人民一样看待，同样仁爱。后泛指对人同样看待，不分厚薄。一：同样，一样；仁：仁爱。

Paraphrase Originally it means that saints treat all the people alike with the same kindness. Later it means in a broad sense to treat all alike without discrimination. "一": same; "仁": kindness.

例句 1 我们要～地对待每一位患者。

Example 1 We should treat every patient alike without discrimination.

例句 2 教师要对所有学生～，公平对待。

Example 2 The teacher should treat all the students equally without discrimination.

反 义 另眼相看　厚此薄彼

一无所有 yī wú suǒ yǒu

not own a thing in the world; not have a thing to one's name

释 义 什么也没有。一：全，都。

Paraphrase Have nothing to one's name. "一": all.

例句 1 ～并不可怕，怕的是一无所长。

Example 1 There's nothing to fear if one has nothing to his name. What should be feared is that one has no special skill.

例句 2 他过去有很多钱，可现在已经～。

Example 2 He used to have a lot of money, but he has nothing to his name now.

一言既出，驷马难追 yī yán jì chū, sì mǎ nán zhuī

what is said cannot be unsaid; a word spoken can never be taken back

释 义 说出的一句话，就连套着四匹马的车也追不回来。形容话说出口，就不能再收回。驷：古时同拉一辆车的四匹马。

Paraphrase Words once uttered cannot be taken back even by riding on a vehicle drawn by four horses. It means what is said cannot be taken back. "驷": four horses drawing a vehicle at the same time in ancient China.

例句 1 你放心，～，他一定说到做到。

Example 1 Please don't worry. What is said cannot be unsaid. He will keep his words.

例句 2 常言道：～，而你却要尽食前言，不怕被耻笑吗？

Example 2 As the saying goes, a word spoken can never be taken back. But you are going back on your words. Aren't you afraid of being laughed at by others?

一言为定 yī yán wéi dìng

that's settled then; that's a deal; a promise is a promise

释义 一句话说定了，不再更改或后悔。又作"一言而定"。定：决定，确定。

Paraphrase Once a word is said, one will not change it or regret about it. It is also termed "一言而定". "定": to decide, to determine.

例句 1 好，咱们～，说干就干。

Example 1 OK. That's settled then. Let's take actions immediately.

例句 2 咱们明天下午三点出发，～！

Example 2 We'll leave at 3 p. m. tomorrow afternoon. It's settled then.

一叶障目 yī yè zhàng mù

have one's view of the important overshadowed by the trivial; cannot see the wood for the trees

释义 一片树叶遮住眼睛。比喻被眼前的细小事物或暂时的、局部的现象所蒙蔽，看不到事物的本质和主流。常和"不见泰山"连用。障：遮，又作"蔽"。

Paraphrase The eyes are shut with a leaf. Metaphorically one's view of the essence has been overshadowed by the trivial, or the temporary and sectional phenomenon. It is often used together with "不见泰山". "障": meaning to cover, and it can be substituted by "蔽".

例句 1 这次你可是～，因小失大，得不偿失了。

Example 1 You didn't see the wood for the trees this time. You lost more than you gained.

例句 2 你不能～，要客观全面地分析问题。

Example 2 You shouldn't fail to see the wood for the trees. The issue should be analyzed objectively in a comprehensive way.

近义 只见树木，不见森林

反义 明察秋毫 高瞻远瞩

典故 有一个书呆子，看见书上说蝉藏身的树叶可以隐身，便找到这种树叶，用树叶遮住眼睛，然后问妻子："看得见我吗?"妻子说："看得见。"后来他反复地问，妻子不耐烦了，说："看不见!"他高兴极了，立刻用树叶遮住眼睛，跑到集市上偷东西，结果被抓住了。审问他时，他说："我以为用这片树叶遮住眼睛，谁也看不见我了!"

以理服人 yǐ lǐ fú rén

convince people by reasoning; persuade through reasoning

释义 用道理说服别人。以：用；服：说服。

Paraphrase To convince people by reasoning. "以": to use; "服": to convince.

例句 1 有理不在声高，～才是最好的办法。

Example 1 A loud voice does not mean what you said is reasonable. The best way is to change people's thinking by reasoning.

例句 2 对孩子不能打骂，要～，而不能以力服人。

Example 2 Children should not be subject to physical or verbal abuse. They should be persuaded by reasoning instead of by using force.

反义 以力服人

以小人之心，度君子之腹 yǐ xiǎo rén zhī xīn, duó jūn zǐ zhī fù

gauge the heart of a gentleman by the yardstick of a knave

释义 指用卑劣的心意去猜测品德高尚的人的心意。小人：

指道德品质不好的人;度:猜测;君子:指品德高尚的人。

Paraphrase To measure the mind of a man of honor with one's own mean measure. "小人": people of vile character; "度": to guess; "君子": a man of honor.

例句 1 他这么想,不代表我也这么想,请告诉他,不要～。

Example 1 I don't think in the same way as he does. Please tell him not to gauge the heart of a gentleman with his own mean measure.

例句 2 他刚才的话,有点儿～的味道。

Example 2 What he said just now is kind of measuring the mind of a man of honor by the yardstick of a knave.

以一当十 yǐ yī dāng shí

pit one against ten; fight bravely

释 义 一个人抵挡十个人。形容军队武艺高强、斗志旺盛。当:抵挡。

Paraphrase One person can withstand ten enemies. It means that troops are very powerful and the morale of them is high. "当": to withstand.

例句 1 掌握科学知识的农民,生产时完全可以～。

Example 1 A farmer equipped with scientific knowledge will greatly improve his productivity in his work.

例句 2 经过严格训练的战士,在战场上可以～。

Example 2 A strictly trained soldier can withstand ten enemies on the battle field.

义不容辞 yì bù róng cí

have an unshirkable duty; be duty-bound

释 义 道义上不允许推辞。义:道义;容:允许;辞:推辞。

Paraphrase One is not allowed to decline in the sense of morality and justice. "义": morality and justice; "容": to allow; "辞": to decline, to refuse.

例句 1 维护交通秩序是交警～的责任。

Example 1 Regulating traffic is the unshirkable obligation of the traffic police.

例句 2 救助灾民，捐款捐物，大学生～。

Example 2 To help the victims of natural disasters by donation is the unshirkable duty of college students.

近 义 责无旁贷

异曲同工 yì qǔ tóng gōng

different tunes rendered with equal skill; different in approach but equally satisfactory in result

释 义 曲调虽然不同，但演得同样精彩。比喻不同的作品写得同样精彩。也比喻做法虽然不同，但效果一样好。异：不同；曲：曲调，乐曲；工：精致，巧妙。

Paraphrase Different tunes are played equally well. It means metaphorically that different literary works are written with the same brilliancy. It also means that different approaches have the same satisfactory results. "异": different; "曲": tune, music; "工": exquisite.

例句 1 小品和相声在立意和表现手法上有～之妙。

Example 1 Short plays and comic dialogues are equally good despite their different conceptions and techniques of expression.

例句 2 你们俩解决这个问题的思路不同，但～，我觉得都可行。

Example 2 Although you have different approaches to solve the problem, I think they are equally good and feasible.

近 义 殊途同归

反 义 截然不同

因地制宜 yīn dì zhì yí

suit measures to local conditions; in the light of local conditions

释 义 根据不同地方的实际情况制定或采取适当的措施。因：根据，依据；制：制定，采取；宜：适当的。

Paraphrase To make or adopt appropriate measures according to the local conditions of different places. "因": according to, in light of; "制": to make, to adopt; "宜": suitable, appropriate.

例句 1 我们要～，鼓励农村乡镇积极发展与当地农业相关的副业，增加农民的收入。

Example 1 We should suit our measures to local conditions and actively encourage towns in the rural areas to develop sideline production related to local agriculture in order to increase the income of farmers.

例句 2 我们要结合自己家乡的具体情况，～地发展经济。

Example 2 We should develop our economy in light of the local conditions of our hometown.

反 义 刻舟求剑

应有尽有 yīng yǒu jìn yǒu

there is everything that should be there; have all that is necessary

释 义 应该有的都有了。形容很齐全。应：应该；尽：都，全。

Paraphrase To have everything that should be there. It means that there is a complete variety of goods. "应": should; "尽": all, everything.

例句 1 当代商城的商品种类繁多,～。

Example 1 There are various kinds of commodities in Modern Plaza. Everything that is needed is available.

例句 2 学校旁边有个音像店,各种音像制品～。

Example 2 There is an audiovisual shop by the school and it has an abundant supply of audio-video products.

近 义 一应俱全

反 义 一无所有

有备无患 yǒu bèi wú huàn

where there is precaution, there is no danger; readiness is all; preparedness averts peril

释 义 事先有准备,就可以避免祸患。备:准备;患:祸患。

Paraphrase Preparatory measures can prevent future danger or trouble. "备": preparation; "患": danger, trouble.

例句 1 登山以前,我们应该准备好充足的水和食物,～嘛!

Example 1 Before we climb the mountain, we should prepare enough water and food. As the saying goes, readiness is all.

例句 2 她每天都把雨伞带在身边,说是～。

Example 2 Every day she carries an umbrella with her, saying that where there is precaution, there is no danger.

近 义 未雨绸缪

反 义 临渴掘井

有求必应 yǒu qiú bì yìng

respond to every plea; grant whatever is requested

释 义 只要有请求,就一定答应。求:请求,要求;必:一定;

应：答应。

Paraphrase One will grant any request. “求”：request；“必”：certain；“应”：to consent.

例句 1 周大爷是个热心人，总是～。

Example 1 Uncle Zhou is so warm-hearted that he always responds to every plea.

例句 2 根据上级指示，“110”必须做到～。

Example 2 According to the direction of the superior, “110” must be able to respond to every request.

有志者事竟成 yǒu zhì zhě shì jìng chéng

where there is a will, there is a way; nothing is impossible to a willing heart

释义 只要意志坚定，事情一定能够办成。

Paraphrase So long as one has a strong will to do something, one will finally succeed in doing it.

例句 1 有道是：苦心人天不负，～。

Example 1 As the saying goes, a diligent person will be favored by heaven, and where there is a will, there is a way.

例句 2 真是～，李时珍用了二十七年的时间，终于写成了《本草纲目》。

Example 2 Where there is a will, there is a way. Li Shizhen completed his great work *Compendium of Materia Medica* after 27 years of hard work.

与人为善 yǔ rén wéi shàn

aim at helping others out of good will

释义 跟别人一同做好事。后多指善意助人或待人和善。

Paraphrase To do good together with others. Later it often re-

fers to helping others out of good will or treating others friendly.

例句 1　～是人的必备修养。

Example 1　To take a sympathetic and friendly attitude towards others is an indispensable characteristic for people of culture.

例句 2　她是个～的厚道人，你们会成为朋友的。

Example 2　As she is honest and friendly, you two will become good friends.

与众不同　yǔ zhòng bù tóng

be out of the world; be out of the usual

释 义　和众人不一样。

Paraphrase　To be different from the common people.

例句 1　小齐的观点常常～，但却发人深思。

Example 1　The opinions of Xiao Qi are often different from others. But they are thought-provoking.

例句 2　他喜欢追求个性，说话做事往往～。

Example 2　He likes to be special and he is often out of the ordinary in what he says and does.

近 义　异乎寻常　非同一般

反 义　大同小异

欲速则不达　yù sù zé bù dá

haste makes waste

释 义　指一心求快，反而达不到目的。达：到。

Paraphrase　Haste brings one no success. "达": to reach.

例句 1　急于求成的结果往往是～。

Example 1　Haste often results in waste.

例句 2　追求女孩子要有耐心，不能急，否则常常是～。

Example 2 You should be patient when courting girls. Otherwise haste will bring no success.

鹬蚌相争 yù bàng xiāng zhēng

if two parties fight, a third party will reap the advantage

释 义 鹬和蚌相持不下,结果让渔翁得了利益。比喻双方相持不下,让第三方乘机占了便宜。鹬:一种水鸟;蚌:一种软体动物,有两个椭圆形的硬壳。

Paraphrase When a snipe and a clam are locked in fighting, it is the fisherman who will reap the benefit. It means if two parties fight, a third party will reap the advantage. "鹬": a kind of water foul; "蚌": a mollusk that has a shell in two oval parts.

例句 1 ～,结果只能是被第三者利用。

Example 1 If two parties are locked in a fight, a third party is sure to make use of it and reap the benefit.

例句 2 你们俩～,别人就会坐收渔人之利。

Example 2 They can take the advantage of the fighting between you and reap the benefit.

典 故 一只蚌露出水面晒着太阳,正巧飞来一只鹬鸟,要去啄蚌的肉。蚌马上合拢蚌壳,将鹬鸟的长嘴紧紧夹住。鹬鸟说:"今天不下雨,明天不下雨,你就会被晒死。"蚌说:"今天不放你,明天不放你,你就会被憋死。"双方互不相让。这时来了一个打鱼的人,就把它们一起捉住带回了家。

远走高飞 yuǎn zǒu gāo fēi

fly far and high; be off to distant parts; flee to a faraway place

释 义 像野兽那样远远跑开,像鸟那样高高飞走。比喻人去远方,多指摆脱困境。走:跑。

Paraphrase To run far away like an animal and to fly far away

like a bird. It means metaphorically that a person goes to faraway places, especially to get away from one's plight. "走": to flee.

例句 1 他们都劝我～，早点儿离开这鬼地方。

Example 1 They all advised me to go far away from this wretched place as soon as possible.

例句 2 我们已三年没联系了，当我从南非回国时，他已经～了。

Example 2 We haven't been in contact with each other for three years. When I returned from South Africa, he had already gone far away.

怨天尤人 yuàn tiān yóu rén

blame everyone and everything but oneself; rave against one's fate

释 义 遇到挫折麻烦时一味抱怨命运和别人，而不寻找自身的原因。怨：怨恨；天：指命运；尤：责怪。

Paraphrase When in frustration or trouble, one always complains about his fate and other people and never blames himself. "怨": to complain, to hate; "天": it refers to fate; "尤": to blame.

例句 1 你不能总是～，我觉得这件事你也有责任。

Example 1 You should not always rave against your fate. In my opinion you are also responsible for it.

例句 2 事已至此，～也无济于事。

Example 2 As it has already happened, complaints will not change the status quo.

Z

杂乱无章 zá luàn wú zhāng

disorderly and unsystematic; in a mess; out of order

释 义 形容很乱，没有条理。杂乱：毫无条理；章：条理。

Paraphrase It refers to a disorderly and chaotic scene. “杂乱”: out of order; “章”: order.

例句 1 如果不事先好好组织内容，文章就会写得～。

Example 1 If you don't organize the content well beforehand, the article you produce will be disorderly and chaotic.

例句 2 你的材料虽然很多，可是没有好好整理，所以显得～。

Example 2 Although you have a lot of materials, you did not organize them well. So they seem quite disorderly.

近 义 乱七八糟

反 义 井然有序 井井有条

再接再厉 zài jiē zài lì

make persistent efforts; work ceaselessly and unremittingly

释 义 原指公鸡相斗，每次交锋前都要在地上磨一磨嘴。比喻一次又一次地继续努力。接：交战；厉：同“砺”，磨快，引申为奋勉。

Paraphrase Originally it means that a rooster will rub its peak each time before it engages in battle again. Metaphorically it means that one makes a sustained and unrelenting efforts. “接”: to engage in a battle; “厉”: the same as “砺”, to grind, to sharpen, to harden

oneself.

例句 1 希望你~,不辜负大家的期望。

Example 1 I hope you will work ceaselessly and unremittingly and live up to our expectations.

例句 2 恭喜你取得乒乓球比赛男单冠军,希望你~,明年再次夺冠。

Example 2 You won the men's singles championship in table tennis. Congratulations! I hope you will make persistent efforts and win the championship again next year.

反 义 不思进取

在所难免 zài suǒ nán miǎn

can hardly be avoided; be inevitable

释 义 难以避免。在:处于,居于。

Paraphrase To be inevitable. "在": in the position of.

例句 1 考试答错题是~的,只要弄明白错在哪里就行了。

Example 1 It's inevitable to give some wrong answers in an exam. What is important is that you know why your answers are wrong.

例句 2 人生的旅途不都是一帆风顺的,挫折和失败~。

Example 2 There is no smooth sailing in the path of one's life. Frustrations and failures can hardly be avoided.

载歌载舞 zài gē zài wǔ

sing and dance joyously; singing and dancing

释 义 边唱歌边跳舞。形容尽情欢乐。载:又,且。

Paraphrase Singing and dancing. It means that people sing and dance to their heart's content. "载": and, as well as.

例句 1 篝火边，新老朋友～，尽情欢乐。

Example 1 Singing and dancing around the bonfire, all the old and new friends enjoyed themselves.

例句 2 联欢会上，师生们～，欢庆建校五十周年。

Example 2 Teachers and students sing and dance joyously at the party to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the school.

赞不绝口 zàn bù jué kǒu

shower / lavish praise on somebody; cannot stop praising

释义 不住口地称赞。赞：称赞；绝：停。

Paraphrase To be profuse in praise. "赞": to praise; "绝": to stop.

例句 1 看到这个孩子给老人让座，大家都～。

Example 1 Seeing the boy give up his seat to an elderly person, all the people showered praise on him.

例句 2 看了这篇来稿，王编辑～。

Example 2 Mr. Wang, the editor, couldn't stop praising the contribution after he read it.

近义 赞叹不已

反义 破口大骂 骂不绝口

贼喊捉贼 zéi hǎn zhuō zéi

a thief cries "Stop thief"; cover oneself up by shouting with the crowd

释义 做贼的人叫喊着抓贼。比喻坏人为了逃脱罪责，转移目标，迷惑大家，反指别人是坏人。喊：叫喊。

Paraphrase A thief cries "Stop thief". Metaphorically it means

a bad person tries to shift all others' attention and confuse them by accusing somebody else of a criminal deed. "贼": to shout.

例句 1 看他～的样子，实在可笑。

Example 1 It was really ridiculous for him to accuse others of the crime he had committed.

例句 2 是他报的案？那不等于～吗？

Example 2 Is it he who reported the case? He is just like a thief who cries "Stop thief".

瞻前顾后 zhān qián gù hòu

think twice before taking action; be overcautious and indecisive

释 义 看看前面，再看后面。形容做事谨慎，考虑周到。也形容顾虑多，犹豫不决。瞻：往前看；顾：向后看。

Paraphrase To look ahead and behind. It means that one is cautious and considerate. It also means that one is overcautious and indecisive. "瞻": to look ahead; "顾": to look behind.

例句 1 你快点儿决定吧，别～的。

Example 1 Make the decision as soon as possible. Don't be overcautious.

例句 2 如果做什么事都～、犹豫不决，就会失去很多机会。

Example 2 No matter what you do, if you are always so indecisive and hesitant, you will lose many chances.

近 义 首鼠两端 患得患失

反 义 义无反顾

斩钉截铁 zhǎn dīng jié tiě

resolute and decisive; with firm determination; categorical

释 义 像砍断钉子、截断铁条一样。形容说话或行动坚决果断，干脆利索。斩：砍断；截：切断。

Paraphrase Like cutting the nail or breaking the iron. It means that one speaks or acts resolutely and decisively. "斩"：to cut，to chop；"截"：to break.

例句 1 面对持刀歹徒，她～地说："我绝不说出保险柜的密码！"

Example 1 Facing robbers who carried knives，she said with firm determination，"I will never tell you the code of the safe!"

例句 2 我不好意思～地拒绝，只好找了个借口推脱掉了。

Example 2 Being shy of refusing others directly，I had to find an excuse to decline.

近 义 干脆利落

反 义 拖泥带水

辗转反侧 zhǎn zhuǎn fǎn cè

toss and turn restlessly；toss about (in bed)

释 义 形容心里有事或有所思念，躺在床上翻来覆去睡不着觉。

Paraphrase It means that being disturbed by something，one tosses and turns in bed and can't fall asleep.

例句 1 想起妈妈辛劳的面孔，我～，泪如雨下。

Example 1 When I thought of the toil-worn face of my mother，I tossed about in my bed and burst into tears.

例句 2 因为应聘失败，昨晚我～，一夜未睡。

Example 2 I had a sleepless night yesterday，tossing about in bed，because I failed my job interview.

近 义　翻来覆去

反 义　高枕而卧

张冠李戴　zhāng guān lǐ dài

put Zhang's hat on Li's head; attribute something to the wrong person; confuse one thing with another; get people mixed up

释 义　把姓张的帽子给姓李的戴上。比喻弄错了对象或弄错了事实。冠：帽子。

Paraphrase　To put Zhang's hat on Li's head. Metaphorically it means that one attributes something to the wrong person or confuses one thing with another. "冠": hat.

例句 1　《春晓》不是杜甫写的，你别～。

Example 1　Spring Dawn was not written by Du Fu. Don't attribute it to the wrong person.

例句 2　他以为照片上的姑娘是我女朋友，真是～。

Example 2　He mistook the girl in the picture for my girlfriend. It's just like putting Zhang's hat on Li's head.

朝三暮四　zhāo sān mù sì

blow hot and cold; play fast and loose; be fickle

释 义　原指用名义上改变而实际上不改变的手法欺骗人。后比喻反复无常。

Paraphrase　Originally it means to cheat others by making changes only to the form but not the substance. Later it means one is fickle or behaves capriciously.

例句 1　今天小张，明天小李，你这样～，可能一个女朋友也留不住。

Example 1　You change your girlfriend too frequently. If you

continue to be so fickle, maybe you will be left with no girlfriend in the end.

例句 2 一会儿学音乐，一会儿学美术，你这样～，什么都学不好。

Example 2 You learned music for a while. Then you gave up and started to learn fine arts. If you are so fickle, you will learn nothing well.

典 故 宋国有一个老人养了一群猴子，每天喂它们橡子吃。有一天他发现猴子们把橡子到处乱扔，十分浪费，就宣布说："从今天起，我要限制你们的食物，早上发三个橡子，晚上发四个橡子。"猴子们一听，气坏了，说："不行！怎么早上比晚上少一个？"于是老人改口说："那早上四个，晚上三个，怎么样？"猴子们立刻高兴得欢呼起来。

郑人买履 zhèng rén mǎi lǚ

a man of the state of Zheng buying his shoes

释 义 指生搬条文而不考虑实际情况的教条做法。

Paraphrase It means that one takes actions following to a fixed standard obstinately without taking the actual conditions into consideration.

例句 1 你买帽子为什么非要和以前的帽子比大小？怎么和～似的。

Example 1 Why do you have to compare the size of the hat you are going to buy with those you bought before? You are just like the man of the state of Zheng who trusted his measurement rather than himself.

例句 2 ～、刻舟求剑这两个寓言都是讽刺那些死搬教条的人。

Example 2 Both Buying Shoes and Making a Mark on the Moving Boat are fables that satirize those who stick obstinately to a fixed standard without flexibility.

典故 郑国有个人要买鞋，先量好了自己脚的尺码，然后去集市买鞋。等到了集市，发现尺码忘在了家里，于是又跑回家去取尺码。等取回来，集市已经散了，结果没有买到鞋。人们问他："你为什么不用自己的脚试试鞋呢？"那个人回答说："我宁愿相信量好的尺码，也不相信自己的脚。"

只可意会，不可言传 zhǐ kě yì huì, bù kě yán chuán

can be apprehended but not expressed; the subtlety is beyond description though it can be sensed

释义 指不能用语言来表达，只能靠感觉来体会。

Paraphrase (Something) can't be expressed in words and can only be sensed or apprehended.

例句 1 对艺术的感受，常常～。

Example 1 When we are appreciating an artistic work, its subtlety can often be apprehended but not expressed.

例句 2 什么是幽默？～。

Example 2 What is humor? It can't be expressed in words and can only be sensed.

纸上谈兵 zhǐ shàng tán bīng

fight only on paper; be an armchair strategist—engage in idle theorizing

释义 在纸上谈论打仗。比喻不根据实际，只凭借书本空谈理论。兵：军事，用兵打仗。

Paraphrase To talk about stratagems on paper. Metaphorically it means that one engages in empty talks about theories regardless of actual circumstances. "兵": military tactics, military strategies.

例句 1 我哪里会打排球啊，我只会～。

Example 1 I can't really play volleyball. I just know some

theories about it.

例句 2 别看爷爷只会～，从不下水，却教会了我游泳。

Example 2 Although my grandfather was just a good swimmer in theory and never swam, I actually learned how to swim under his instruction.

典 故 战国时，赵国名将赵奢的儿子赵括从小学习兵法，谈起兵法来，他父亲也难不倒他，但他只是理论上的空谈，不会真正领兵打仗。后来赵括代替大将廉颇率军出征，在长平战役中，因为只按兵书用兵，不能根据实际灵活指挥，被秦兵打得大败。

专心致志 zhuān xīn zhì zhì

be wholly absorbed; be with single-hearted devotion; be preoccupied with something

释 义 把心思和志趣都集中到一点上。形容一心一意，聚精会神。专：专一；致：极，尽；志：志趣，志向。

Paraphrase To concentrate one's mind or interest on one point. It means that one is wholly absorbed in something. "专": single-minded; "致": ultimate; "志": interest, ambition.

例句 1 图书馆的自习室里，学生们正在～地学习。

Example 1 The students are absorbed in their study in the room for individual study in the library.

例句 2 昨天我来看他时，他正在～地看书呢。

Example 2 When I came to visit him yesterday, he was absorbed in a book.

近 义 聚精会神　全神贯注

反 义 心不在焉　三心二意

典 故 从前，有个棋手叫秋，由于棋艺高，别人叫他弈秋。后来弈秋收了两个学生，教他们棋艺。一个学生听得仔细认真，而另一个学

生却心不在焉，一会儿看看窗外的田野和树林，一会儿听听天上的雁鸣。当他发现有大雁飞过，就盘算着如何用箭把他射下来煮着吃。弈秋讲完棋艺，叫两个学生对下一局，看看他们究竟学得怎样。结果那个专心的学生从容有序，而那个三心二意的学生却只有招架之功，无还手之力。弈秋语重心长地说："虽然下棋只是一种小小的技艺，算不得什么大本事，但如果不专心致志地学习，也是学不好的啊！"

自食其力 zì shí qí lì

support oneself by one's own labor; be independent; earn one's own living

释 义 依靠自己的劳动养活自己。

Paraphrase To support oneself by one's own labor.

例句 1 我不想过寄人篱下的日子，我要出去打工，～。

Example 1 I don't want to depend on others. I will go out and find a job to earn my own living.

例句 2 你已经长大了，应该～了，别总是向父母要钱。

Example 2 You are already a grownup and should be able to support yourself by your own labor. Don't always ask for money from your parents.

自相矛盾 zì xiāng máo dùn

contradict oneself; be self-contradictory; argue against oneself

释 义 用自己的长矛刺自己的盾牌。比喻自己的言行互相抵触。矛：长矛，古代用于进攻的武器；盾：盾牌，古代用于防守的武器。

Paraphrase To use one's own spear to stab one's own shield. It means metaphorically that one is contradicting oneself in speech or action. "矛": the spear, a weapon for offensive attack in ancient times; "盾": the shield, a weapon for defense in ancient times.

例句 1 写文章和说话一样，不能～。

Example 1 Writing, just like speaking, cannot be self-contradictory.

例句 2 你说你不在场，又说是你干的，你怎么～呢？

Example 2 You said you were not there but at the same time you maintained that you did it. Why do you contradict yourself?

反 义 自圆其说

典 故 楚国有个卖矛和盾的，既夸他的盾非常坚固，什么锐利的武器也刺不透，又夸他的矛非常尖锐，什么坚固的东西都能刺进去。有人问他："用你的矛来刺你的盾，怎么样？"这个人便无话可说了。

自言自语 zì yán zì yǔ

speak to oneself; think aloud

释 义 自己跟自己说话。言、语：说话。

Paraphrase To speak to oneself. "言","语": to speak.

例句 1 小冯～地说："我怎么就没有考虑到这一点呢？"

Example 1 Xiao Feng murmured to himself: "Why didn't I think of that?"

例句 2 他喜欢～，你别在意。

Example 2 He likes to speak to himself. Please don't mind.

近 义 喃喃自语

自由自在 zì yóu zì zài

leisurely and carefree; free and unrestrained

释 义 毫无约束，安闲舒适。

Paraphrase Unrestrained and leisurely.

例句 1 在大草原上～地骑马，是一件十分惬意的事。

Example 1 To ride a horse on the prairie freely is a great pleasure.

例句 2 大人羡慕孩子的～，小孩羡慕大人的独立自主。

Example 2 Adults envy children for their carefree life, while children envy adults for their independence.

近 义 悠闲自在 逍遥自在

反 义 身不由己

自以为是 zì yǐ wéi shì

consider oneself in the right; regard oneself as infallible; be self-opinionated

释 义 认为自己是对的，形容主观、不虚心。

Paraphrase One always thinks that he is right. It means one is too subjective and conceited.

例句 1 你别总～。

Example 1 Don't always be so conceited.

例句 2 他是一个～的人，不可能听进别人的意见。

Example 2 He always regards himself as infallible. It's impossible for him to take the advice of others.

自圆其说 zì yuán qí shuō

make one's statement valid; justify oneself

释 义 指让自己的话没有一点儿漏洞。圆：周全。

Paraphrase To make one's statement reasonable and fully justified. "圆": make plausible, justify.

例句 1 他的解释很难～。

Example 1 He can hardly justify himself with his explanation.

例句 2 他的文章逻辑混乱、前后矛盾，根本无法～。

Example 1 His article is self-contradictory and not logical. He can not justify his point in the article at all.

自知之明 zì zhī zhī míng

wisdom of knowing oneself; knowledge of oneself; self-knowledge

释 义 了解自己，对自己有正确估计。

Paraphrase To know and have a proper evaluation of oneself.

例句 1 他能说明真相，表明他是有～的。

Example 1 The fact that he can tell the truth shows that he knows his limitations.

例句 2 我真做不好，这点儿～我还是有的，您还是另请高明吧。

Example 2 I can't do it well. I have no illusions about my abilities. You'd better find someone else who is more competent.

自作自受 zì zuò zì shòu

suffer from one's own actions; stew in one's own juice; be caught in one's own trap

释 义 自己做了错事，自己承担后果。

Paraphrase To bear the consequence of one's own wrongful action.

例句 1 他平时不上课，考试又作弊，这次被勒令退学了，真是～。

Example 1 He didn't attend any classes and even cheated in exams. Now he gets flunked out, stewing in his own juice.

例句 2 他～，有什么好可怜的？

Example 2 He has been caught in his own trap and deserves no sympathy.

走投无路 zǒu tóu wú lù

have no way out; be in an impasse; come to a dead end

释 义 无路可走，无处投奔。形容无路可走，陷入绝境。投：投奔。

Paraphrase To have no way out or nowhere to go for shelter. It means that one is in a helpless and desperate situation. "投": to go to for shelter.

例句 1 很多自杀的人都是因为～，又找不到解脱的办法。

Example 1 Many people who committed suicide because they had no way out and could not escape from their helpless situations.

例句 2 吸毒的儿子挥霍了全部家当，母亲～，只好去卖血。

Example 2 The son sold everything in the house because of his drug-addiction. So his mother had no way out but to sell her blood for a living.

近 义 山穷水尽

反 义 柳暗花明 绝处逢生

足智多谋 zú zhì duō móu

wise and full of strategies; wise and resourceful

释 义 智慧丰富，计谋很多。形容善于料事或用计。足：多，充足；谋：计谋。

Paraphrase To be full of wisdom and strategies. It means that one is good at foreseeing what will happen in the future or one is greatly resourceful. "足": sufficient; "谋": strategies.

例句 1 老王～，智勇双全，亲自破获了很多大案。

Example 1 Lao Wang is both brave and resourceful. He has cracked many major cases by himself.

例句 2 诸葛亮是一位～、用兵如神的军事家。

Example 2 Zhuge Liang was a resourceful strategist who deployed troops with miraculous skill.

近义 多谋善断

反义 愚不可及

左顾右盼 zuǒ gù yòu pàn

glance right and left; look around

释义 左边瞧瞧，右边看看。有时也形容犹豫不决的样子。顾：回头看；盼：看。

Paraphrase To glance right and left. Sometimes it means that one is hesitant. "顾": to look back; "盼": to look.

例句 1 远处有两个戴草帽的人，看他们～的样子，好像准备做什么交易。

Example 1 Look at the two men with straw hats over there. Judging from the way they look around, it seems that they are doing a secret deal.

例句 2 考试的时候，不要～，免得发生误会。

Example 2 To avoid misunderstandings, don't look around when you are taking an exam.

近义 东张西望

反义 目不斜视

坐井观天 zuò jǐng guān tiān

have a very narrow view

释义 坐在井底看天。比喻眼界狭小。

Paraphrase To look at the sky from the bottom of a well. It means that one has a very narrow view.

例句 1 我不想～，乱发议论，还是请大家说说想法吧。

Example 1 I don't want to make irresponsible comments be-

cause of my lack of knowledge. Please express your ideas about it.

例句 2 知识贫乏的人往往容易～。

Example 2 People who have little knowledge tend to have a narrow view.

近 义 管中窥豹

反 义 见多识广

坐立不安 zuò lì bù ān

be fidgety; be on tenterhooks; be on pins and needles; be on edge

释 义 坐着站着都不安宁。形容心绪焦躁不安的样子。安：安宁。

Paraphrase To feel uneasy whether sitting or standing. It means one feels anxious and worried. "安": at ease.

例句 1 看你～的样子，到底发生了什么事？

Example 1 You seem to be on pins and needles. What on earth has happened?

例句 2 妻子得了急病，正在做手术，丈夫在手术室外～。

Example 2 She contracted an acute disease and was under operation. Her husband was on pins and needles while waiting outside the operating room.

近 义 心神不定 坐卧不安

反 义 安之若素

座无虚席 zuò wú xū xí

every seat is taken; have a full house; be packed to capacity

释 义 座位没有空着的。形容观众、宾客或出席的人很多。

座：座位；虚：空。

Paraphrase Not a single seat is empty. It means that there is a large audience or many guests or attendants. “座”：seats；“虚”：empty.

例句 1 汇报厅里，～，连门口都站满了人。

Example 1 The lecture hall was packed to capacity. Even its entrance was crowded with people.

例句 2 陈教授每次来办讲座，会议室里都～。

Example 2 Every time Prof. Chen comes to give a lecture here, the meeting room will be packed to capacity.

近 义 济济一堂

做贼心虚 zuò zéi xīn xū

have a guilty conscience like a thief; have something on one’s conscience

释 义 做贼的人心里发虚。形容做了坏事的人怕被别人察觉出来，总是提心吊胆的。

Paraphrase The thief has a guilty conscience. It means that a guilty person who is afraid of being discovered is always on tenterhooks.

例句 1 你别～，我没有说你。

Example 1 Don’t behave like a thief with a guilty conscience. I wasn’t talking about you.

例句 2 稍有点儿动静，老陈就很紧张，简直是～。

Example 2 A slight noise will get on Lao Chen’s nerves. He is just like a thief with a guilty conscience.

反 义 问心无愧